

Meet the woman in the mayor's race
as well as most of the men, along with the
candidates for district attorney and more.
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Rally for Prop. A
Senator Feinstein visits
Laguna Honda Hospital.
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Jazzing it up
Patricia Barber enlivens
SF Jazz Festival 1999.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 42 • 21 October 1999

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Why run, Tom?

by Terry Beswick

He can't win. So says the conventional wisdom. With little money, no commercials, no paid staff, no participation in the debate, no meetings with editorial boards, and none of the other usual trappings of a San Francisco mayoral campaign, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano decided at the last minute to throw his hat into the ring.

Ammiano, a schoolteacher and stand-up comic, filed paper last week requiring the city to count write-in votes reading "Mayor Tom Ammiano."

Pundits have dismissed his late entry as evidence of indecisiveness and naivete. Others call him a Perot-like spoiler, the left who could threaten the re-election of Willie Brown, forcing the mayor into a runoff with one of his closest challengers, former Mayor Frank Jordan or former political consultant Jim Reilly.

"I think the 'conventional wisdom' doesn't understand when people get excited," said Robert (Baldie) who serves with Hank Wilson, another

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Hank Wilson promoted writing in Tom Ammiano for mayor at last month's Folsom Street Fair

Sailor's story sinking fast

Alleged homo-panic killer takes the stand

by Katie Szymanski

After viewing the battered bathroom door, bloody rags, and a towel bent in half from the fatal beating of publisher Juan Pifarre, discharged naval officer Steven Nary took the stand in his murder trial on October 18 before Judge Kevin Ryan in San Francisco Superior Court, mumbling and seemingly annoyed by the prosecution's requests for details of the night of March 24, 1996.

Nary, who was 18 when he allegedly killed Pifarre, 54, in what he said was self-defense from homosexual advances and an ensuing struggle, insisted that he was sexually assaulted when he accepted \$40 for oral sex from Pifarre, who later demanded anal sex and chased him around the house.

"I was disgusted," said Nary, about the oral sex he had with Pifarre before falling asleep in Pifarre's bed.

The prosecution said it was Nary who chased Pifarre around the house, beating him and choking him until he became still and lifeless. Police found Pifarre naked, with multiple puncture wounds, dead on his bathroom floor. The entire apartment was covered in Pifarre's blood.

On the stand, Nary revealed not only a disdain for the questioning, but gaps in his story so wide that he continuously set his own traps for the prosecution to seize upon. "I can't remember every detail, it all hap-

pened so quick," Nary answered repeatedly during questioning. "It all happened so quick."

Then, when defense attorney Bruce Hotchkiss tried to give his client a chance to explain why he originally told inspectors he choked Pifarre for "no more than five minutes," Nary told the courtroom, "I don't know ... the incident seemed like it took a long time."

When prosecutor John Farrell pointed out the dichotomy between something taking a "long time" and "happening fast," Nary delivered a line that made his own attorney shake in his chair.

"It seemed like a long time," he said, "but it happened quickly."

Nary also varied the order of events in the struggle - agreeing with the prosecution that he had lied to inspectors - and conceded that after he choked Pifarre, he went through Pifarre's pockets, then went to clean himself in the bathroom, where Pifarre lay listless in a pool of blood. Nary did not think Pifarre needed medical care, he told the jury, or he would have called 911. Nary, however, sought medical care for his own bruised hand once back at the naval base. It was his sole injury from the incident - a result of hitting Pifarre - and an injury he told the prosecution he did not even realize he had

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Federal hate crimes bill dead

by Bob Roehr

The slim hope of passing the federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) died in a conference committee meeting between the House and Senate on Monday, October 18. The Human Rights Campaign

(HRC) lay blame for defeat of their pet project at the feet of the Republican leadership in a scathing news release that some called unduly partisan.

Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director, said the action "showed a callous disregard for hate crimes victims and their families. Apparently the GOP leadership learned nothing from the recent wave of hate crimes that have rocked our nation." Last Sunday the organization ran commercials on public affairs programs supporting its position.

What Birch did not demonstrate was how passage of the bill would have prevented such crimes, or appreciably changed the investigations or the prosecution of the perpetrators. From the death of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, to Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama, to James Byrd in Texas, all of the killers have been apprehended and have been or are being fully prosecuted by state or local officials. No one is suggesting that these officials have been derelict in their duty.

While most people agree that hate crimes



HRC's Elizabeth Birch

are a terrible thing, they differ on the need for or effectiveness of federal hate crimes legislation. Opinion is divided, both within the gay community and across the political spectrum. Some oppose a federal intrusion into criminal law, which historically has been a state and local domain. Others see it as imposing an unnecessary limitation upon free speech.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is split: some local chapters support such laws while others oppose them. And in the Senate, the liberal Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin) is on record as opposing the restriction on speech.

"I don't want to make a federal case out of local law enforcement," said Bill Dobbs, a Manhattan attorney with the group Queer Watch. "HRC has no business making local criminal matters into federal crimes. We've got enough law and order. We need civil rights. Hate crimes laws are not a civil rights issue."

Log Cabin Republicans supports the HCPA, despite the fact that its members are

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B.A.R. election endorsements

MAYOR: see page 6
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Steve Castleman
SHERIFF: Michael Hennessey

PROPOSITIONS

- A Laguna Honda Project: YES
- B Firefighter/Police Retirement Benefits: YES
- C Supervisorial District Boundaries: YES
- D Sick Leave/Vacation Credit Transfers: YES
- E Municipal Transportation Agency: NO
- F ATM Fees: NO
- G Sunshine Ordinance Amendment: YES
- H Downtown Caltrain Station: NO
- I Octavia Boulevard Plan: NO
- J Central Freeway Replacement: YES
- K Campaign Expenditures Limit: YES

VOTE YES on Propositions A, B, C, D, G, J, K

VOTE NO on Propositions E, F, H, I

Propositions explained on page 6

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2.

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Full house at LYRIC



The Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) held its second annual fall open house last Wednesday, October 20 and Executive Director Brian Cheu, center, was surrounded by a crowd of participants, staff, and board members. Cheu said about 200 people attended the event, which called attention to the variety of programs LYRIC offers to queer and questioning people age 23 and under. For more information, call (415) 703-6150.

People in masks raise money for Spectrum

by Lois Pearlman

Comedians Karen Ripley and Danny Williams, the Galaxy Drag Show, casino games, a buffet dinner and dancing till midnight with masked revelers, will highlight Spectrum's sixth annual gala Masquerade Ball this Friday, October 22, in San Rafael.

The event will raise money for the many programs conducted by Spectrum, Marin County's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community center in San Anselmo. The Marin Community Foundation is providing a matching grant for up to \$10,000 of the money raised at the event.

Spectrum Executive Director Paula Pilecki said the money will be especially welcome in the coming year for a newly organized senior services collaborative and an ever-expanding outreach to youth

in the local high schools and middle schools, as well as the center's ongoing support groups and gay rights advocacy work.

The senior services collaborative, a joint venture between Spectrum, Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) in San Francisco, and Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, provides regular telephone calls and home visits to isolated or homebound LGBT seniors. The youth program, in addition to the Rainbow's End support group for sexual minority youngsters, offers technical assistance for gay/straight alliances in local schools, as well as a speaker's bureau.

Last year the Masquerade Ball netted \$14,000 and organizers hope to raise over \$20,000 this year.

The event will run from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Peacock Gap Country Club, 333 Biscayne Drive

in San Rafael. There will be a sponsor reception from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$50 per person in advance and \$60 at the door.

The program includes a cabaret show, dancing with DJ Page Hodel, a casino and silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, a no-host bar, and a mask contest with prizes. Guests should wear evening attire, and masks are encouraged.

Pilecki said event organizers are still looking for additional volunteers to help with set-up. Anyone who is willing to work three hours or more, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Friday, will receive a free pass to the ball.

For more information or to volunteer call (415) 475-1115, ext. 229. For mask ideas, to become a sponsor, or to donate a silent auction item check out the event website at (www.Spectrum-Marin.org/masquerade). ▼

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Tired of rent? Housing workshop shows you how to buy

by Katie Szymanski

The San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC), a nonprofit organization that focuses on building affordable housing for low to moderate income individuals in the San Francisco area, will hold a workshop on Thursday, October 28, to educate people on the process of buying a home.

The workshop will teach first-time home buyers how to budget, repair credit, and qualify for the program's housing, and will walk potential buyers through mortgage applications and securing loans. Most of SFHDC's projects are new homes in the Western Addition and Bayview, and the organization will assist qualified buyers with up to \$150,000 in loans toward a purchase.

Thursday's workshop will in-

clude speakers from the Bank of America, Consumer Credit Counselors, Norwest Mortgage, and Cal Fed Bank. The session runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood Street, in San Francisco. ▼

For more information or to RSVP, call Rene Quintana at (415) 241-7888, extension 17.



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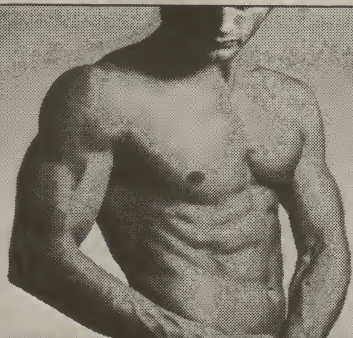
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Leslie Katz, city sued by ex-gay fundies

by Terry Beswick

San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz and the city and county of San Francisco were sued on October 6 in United States District Court by the Family Research Council, Kerusso Ministries, the American Family Association (AFA), and the AFA's president, the Reverend Donald E. Wildmon.

The fundamentalist Christian groups and Wildmon, a Methodist, filed suit in the court's San Francisco division in retaliation for an October 13, 1998 unanimous Board of Supervisors resolution urging local television stations not to broadcast the groups' advertisements.

The "Truth in Love" ads target gays and lesbians with "the message that there is hope in Jesus Christ for homosexuals who desire to change their homosexual lifestyle."

The suit alleges that the board's resolution violates the ex-gay ministry advocates' constitutional rights to "free speech and the free exercise of religion."

Ironically, the coalition also seeks to prohibit further official declarations from anyone on San Francisco's payroll against any group or individual who believes that "homosexuality is sinful and



Supervisor Leslie Katz

homosexuals can change their homosexual practices."

The suit further seeks unspecified monetary reparations from the city for the supervisors' "defamatory" statements.

"They don't have a leg to stand on," Katz, an attorney, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "(The suit) could be tossed out very easily."

"She's talking like defendants like to talk," responded Stephen M. Crampton, lead attorney for the AFA. "Tough talk is cheap.

Let's see her motion to dismiss and let the courts decide."

The ads began airing in the Washington, D.C. area in October 1998, and in May and June 1999 in Orlando, Florida. The coalition sought to broadcast the ads here, Crampton told the *B.A.R.*, "because, as we all know, there are a fair number of homosexuals in San Francisco." He said that the ads were not targeted exclusively at the those questioning their sexuality, but at all gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQQ) people.

"Deep down, there is that little question, that part that knows that what he is doing is not morally correct under God's law," he said. "There is one universal truth and one universal law that is applicable to all men everywhere."

The suit claims that all San Francisco television stations declined to run the ads, "at least in part" due to the board resolution sponsored by Katz.

"Why should homosexuality be the only topic that is off limits?" asked Crampton. "Homosexual rights would be nowhere without First Amendment protections. Now that they've won some special rights (sic), what they want to do is stop the free exchange of ideas. I would equate the homosexuals' use and abuse of the media with the Nazi's abuse of the media."

"The television stations saw these misguided and evil acts for what they were," said Katz.

Crampton argues that the United States Supreme Court has "long held" that government entities may not act officially to alienate one religion with a particular point of view, and said that the burden of proof rests with the city to show that the resolution had "absolutely no effect" on the stations' decisions not to run the ads.

Defendant Katz's 1998 resolution - passed the day after the death of gay murder victim Matthew Shepard in Wyoming - stated that the ads from the "radical religious political conservative coalition... insinuate a gay or lesbian sexual orientation is immoral and undesirable (and) create an atmosphere which validates oppression of gays and lesbians and encourages maltreatment," pointing as evidence to a "marked increase in anti-gay violence

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Breast cancer walk Sunday in Golden Gate Park

by Katie Szymanski

The American Cancer Society will hold its second annual Bay Area "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk this Sunday, October 24, an event that consists of a non-competitive 5-mile jaunt through Golden Gate Park in an effort to raise money for research and patient services.

Thirty-seven cities across America will hold similar events in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the number one killer of women, and 4,600 people in the greater Bay Area will die from the disease this year, according to American Cancer Society spokesperson Julie Armin. Last year's walk raised \$500,000, and the organization hopes to exceed that goal this year. The American Cancer Society provides patient services, public education, and research across the country, and even has an outreach program to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) people called The Triangle Project.

There has been some debate as to whether lesbians are at a higher risk for developing breast cancer, but Armin said the most important thing to remember is that 70 percent of all breast cancer victims fall into no recognizable risk category.

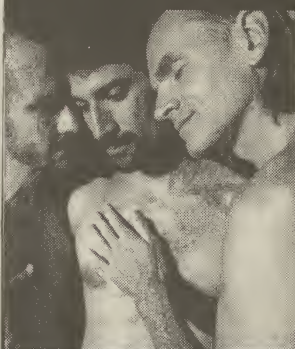
"People tend to relax their vigilance when they think they don't fall into a risk category," Armin told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "But those risk factors don't actually apply to most people with breast cancer, so we all need to be vigilant."

Early detection, said Armin, is the best way to beat breast cancer.

Sunday's event begins at the park's Speedway Meadow, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and the walk starting at 8:50 a.m. Participants should raise money through pledges before the walk and turn in their donations at registration. ▼

For information about "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer," and to receive a pledge brochure, call the American Cancer Society's toll-free hotline at 1-877-906-7222, or visit the website at www.cancer.org. For information or to volunteer for The Triangle Project, call (415) 394-7100, extension 321.

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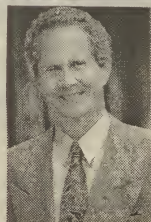
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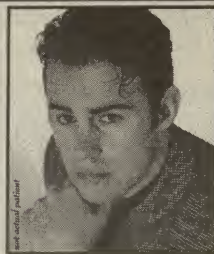
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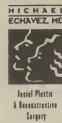
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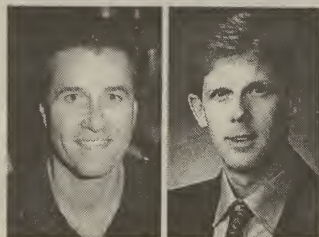
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Fight Knight events

by Terry Beswick

Anyone who opposes the Knight initiative may think they have plenty of time between now and the March 2000 election to give money to – or show support for – the campaign to defeat the so-called divisive, intrusive, and unfair ballot measure.

But the statewide campaign to defeat the initiative, which would ban any future recognition of gay marriage in California, had raised only \$900,000 as of September 30, while the Knight campaign raised \$3,863,165.04 in the same period.

This disparity might be reflective of the fact that organized religions – notably the Mormon and Catholic churches – have been organizing big-time to raise money from their members and their churches to ensure passage of the gay marriage ban, as they did in Hawaii and Alaska where similar initiatives were approved by the voters.

But on its face, it only shows that, with just over four months until the vote, opponents of the measure have raised less than a quarter of the amount raised by those who would permanently re-

strict legal marriages to those "between a man and a woman."

According to the No on Knight campaign, every dollar raised to defeat Knight will be important, but early contributions will be particularly critical to counterbalance the opposition.

Toward that end, a fundraiser for No on Knight will be held tomorrow evening, Friday, October 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event, hosted by Milton Estes at the Thomas Steel building at 301 Pennsylvania Street at 18th street in San Francisco, are \$75. Supervisor Mark Leno and No on Knight campaign manager Mike Marshall are the featured speakers, and the No on Knight campaign encourages all to attend.

Fighting the perception that all religious or spiritual people are in favor of the Knight initiative, San Francisco's Congregation Emanuel, Dolores Street Baptist Church, and First Unitarian Universalist Church will be hosting a special service to "give voice to religious resistance to the Knight initiative."

According to Cheryl Deaner, executive director of the All Our Families Coalition, which helped organize the event, clergy from all

over Northern California are expected to attend the "service of prayer, protest, and affirmation of same-gender couples, families and their children."

The public is also welcome at the Thursday, October 28 service, to be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Emanuel at 2 Lake Street at Arguello in San Francisco's Richmond District.

"We do not support state-sponsored discrimination," said Congregation Emanuel's Rabbi Sydney Mintz, who is openly lesbian. "At stake is an initiative funded in large part by the Mormon Church and other conservative Christian groups seeking to challenge and defeat other gains that the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons have received in California." ▼

For information on the October 22 reception, or to make a contribution to the No on Knight campaign, call Derek Jentsch at (415) 227-1020. For information about the October 28 service, call Congregation Emanuel at (415) 751-2535.

Alliance honors Tsenin and Aftergut

by Terry Beswick

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin and Chief Assistant City Attorney Dennis Aftergut were honored by the Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Non-Partisan Alliance on Saturday, October 16, at the political action committee's annual black-tie dinner. This year's event raised funds for the No on Knight campaign, the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, and the Alliance itself.

In presenting Tsenin with the Civic Achievement Award, Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens recounted her colleague's years of activism, going back to the 1970s. "She was not daunted by the fact that in those days you were stigmatized. That only incited her," Hitchens said, recounting Tsenin's organizing and educating efforts around homosexuality among law students and within the law profession.

After one unsuccessful attempt, Tsenin was elected to the bench in 1996 "with more votes than anyone else who ran for a citywide election," said Hitchens. "We join tonight in recognizing and appreciating Kay for the compassion and generosity she has brought to our community."

"Probably the hardest part of being a judge is that I can't be with



Judge Kay Tsenin

you on all your battles," Tsenin said in accepting award, alluding to legal restrictions on political activities of judges.

Tsenin went on to speak about injustices in the law affecting gays and lesbians. "There's someone in prison somewhere for sodomy," she said. "And unfortunately there are people at the end of the millennium who hate us. I keep hoping it's their final gasp."

Mayor Willie Brown and City Attorney Louise Renne presented the Alliance's Don Disler Award to Aftergut, who led the city's legal team in its successful lawsuit against United Airlines over the city's equal benefit ordinance.

"Not only did he litigate it successfully," said Brown, introducing Aftergut, "but the end product of that litigation was so pervasive that they ensured that all other airlines worldwide would have to provide the domestic partnership benefits legislated in the city and county of San Francisco."

Renne presented Aftergut with the custom-designed award, symbolized by a small model of an United Airlines jet draped in a rainbow flag, and mounted on a base engraved with the words, "Equal benefits under the law."

"We had one of the great joys of defending one of the great civil rights laws," Aftergut said in accepting the award. He acknowledged the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for enacting the landmark legislation which requires businesses that contract with the city to offer domestic partnership benefits to their employees if the benefits are offered to employee spouses, and also called on the guests to applaud several United Airlines employees in attendance who provided testimony in the case.

"By your one hundred thousand individual acts of coming out, you have created the community that made this legislation possible," said Aftergut to the largely lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender crowd, who gave the attorney a standing ovation. ▼

Sybase sued for discrimination

by Katie Szymanski

A citizen of India who was fired and had his green card revoked filed a lawsuit on October 14 against the computer company Sybase for wrongful termination and retaliation, charging that his supervisor discriminated against him on the basis of national origin and promoted a sexual partner over more qualified employees.

Alex George began working for Sybase in 1995 and had an agreement with the company that would allow him to stay in the

United States. Sybase supervisor Greg Lynch, the suit alleges, was sleeping with another employee whom he chose to promote over George in 1998. According to the suit, when George asked why he wasn't promoted, Lynch responded, "Because you're not American."

The suit also alleges sexual harassment, charging that Lynch repeatedly engaged in conduct of a sexual manner with his boyfriend during office hours, and that because George was not sleeping with Lynch, he was not promoted.

When George told Lynch he was going to complain to management, Lynch allegedly stated, "I have two

words for you: green card."

George was fired earlier this year, and now must leave the United States, according to his attorney Geoff Kors of the law firm Wotman and Kors.

"They knew he would have to leave the country when they fired him," Kors told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Instead of punishing the victim of harassment, Sybase should have punished the harasser."

A spokesperson for Sybase said that the company had just learned of the lawsuit and could not comment until further investigation.

The complaint seeks general, special, and punitive damages. ▼

Fired gay Catholic school professor fasting in Dolores Park

by Terry Beswick

Dr. Johannes Van Vugt has been fasting since National Coming Out Day, October 11.

Van Vugt's saga began in 1992, when he was hired as an openly gay sociology professor at St. Mary's College, a private Catholic school in Moraga.

Van Vugt said he was recommended for tenure in 1995 by the professor's department and dean, and then by the college's academic vice president and tenure review committee, and was ultimately fired by St. Mary's president, Mel Anderson, who has since retired. Anderson wrote Van Vugt that his tenure was denied "on the grounds that your abilities and background are not an 'institutional fit' in view of the intellectual traditions of the college."

The professor, who said that the college knew he was openly gay when he was hired, first appealed the decision with the college's grievance committee, where Anderson explained that Van Vugt had been teaching his students from a "multicultural perspective," rather than simply teaching "the truth." According to Van Vugt, the president further alleged that the professor had engaged in sexual harassment and "gay seductive behavior," and had attempted to convert students to the "gay lifestyle," a charge that Van

Vugt said was not substantiated.

Pointing to this and other evidence given in depositions, Van Vugt believed he had been fired because he was openly gay, and filed suit in Contra Costa County Superior Court. He lost, and appealed with the San Francisco Court of Appeals, which upheld the lower court's decision that Van Vugt's firing was not arbitrary or capricious, regardless of whether it was correct.

The college was awarded \$60,000 in legal fees; Van Vugt reports taking out a second mortgage on his home to pay. A fund has been established to help with the legal expenses.

In August of this year, when he was denied a hearing by the California Supreme Court, Van Vugt's attorney advised him that the battle was over.

There are no state or federal laws protecting employees of religiously-affiliated institutions from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The courts had spoken: Van Vugt had no right to sue.

"I did all the legal stuff, and I am a pacifist. What else can I do?" asked Van Vugt, who is also writing a textbook about multiculturalism. He has a permit from the city, allowing him to fast in Dolores Park from 6:30 in the morning until 6:30 at night; he sleeps in his home one block away.

"I will end the fast when my body cannot take it anymore, or when there is some sign that America is aware that gays and lesbians are still suffering as second-class citizens," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

As an example of such a sign,

page 30 ►



Jane Philomen Citland

Fasting Professor Johannes Van Vugt in Dolores Park.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Where to GLOE for Halloween fun

by Katie Szymanski

Older lesbians often have a hard time finding community events, but this Halloween, Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) has something up its sleeve.

GLOE will host its first Costume Ball and Sock Hop this Sunday, October 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. for lesbians 50 and over and their friends. The event is a way to bring back the

popular tea dances that the group once hosted, according to Valerie Hayden, GLOE co-director.

"Older lesbians often tell us that they don't find support networks for them, they aren't comfortable going to the bars, but they would still like a place to go out and dance," said Hayden. "We're trying to get older lesbians more organized and together, and this is one way we hope to do that."

The Costume Ball is a woman-

only (lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) event. Younger women are welcome to attend. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes. Admission is free. ▼

The Halloween Costume Ball and Sock Hop will be held at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood Street. Call 415-255-2937 for more information.

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- 2:00 PM** ■ I Feel Good!: 33 tips to cope with symptoms & side effects
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OPEN FORUM

Re-elect Willie Brown

The race for San Francisco mayor has been less than stimulating for most people, and it took us a while to decide who to endorse among the declared candidates. In the end, we recommend re-electing Mayor Willie Brown. Brown has been a steadfast supporter of gay rights and that shows in his diverse administration, which has gays and lesbians as heads of city departments and in top administrative posts.

The mayor has his shortcomings – his inability to dramatically improve Muni and the homeless situation are probably the two most glaring examples – but he has the experience and ability to govern that the other declared candidates lack.

CITY PROPOSITIONS

Prop. A - Laguna Honda Project
Vote YES

This is truly the time for this project. Laguna Honda was founded in 1866 and most of the current facilities were built between 1926 and 1940. Its buildings were badly damaged during the 1989 earthquake. The hospital is one of the few in the state that accepts all citizens regardless of their ability to pay. It offers long-term assisted care, skilled nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services, as well as caring for AIDS and dementia patients. This hospital is the last hope for many of our citizens on a limited income who have little or no health insurance. While it is a large bond measure, the city hopes to offset the cost of financing the bonds by using its share of federal tobacco money. This would reduce the possibility of a costly tax rate on property. We would like to remind our readers that many AIDS patients from our community were treated at this facility when no other was available. We urge a YES vote on Prop. A.

Prop. B - Firefighter/Police Retirement Benefits
Vote YES

There are two tiers to this group retirement package. This proposition is almost a housekeeping, bookkeeping proposal. There are still some matters that must be cleared up since the new city charter was passed, and this is one of them. The cost to the city at this time is nothing. The retirement fund itself is heavily overfunded and the city hopes not to pay in to it for years to come. Passage of Prop. B would decrease that fund but only minimally. Vote YES on Prop. B.

Prop. C - Supervisor District Boundaries
Vote YES

This proposition would finally define District 11. The other 10 districts are set boundaries while District 11 is sort of a catch-all for people who reside elsewhere in the county. If this proposition passes, voters on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island will be placed in District 6, and any other voters in territorial waters or islands in the bay will be placed in the nearest shore district. Vote YES on Prop. C.

Prop. D - Sick Leave/Vacation Credit Transfers

Vote YES

This is basically two propositions in one. The first issue concerns vacation pay that may be transferred to a pool. Vacation pay is included in employee benefits and is not an additional cost to the city, and it may be donated to help other catastrophically ill employees. Sick pay is a different matter; it is not a budgeted employee benefit and the cost to the city is difficult to calculate because of the wide range of pay scales. In 1998-99, employees donated about \$2.1 million in sick leave to persons who had exhausted their vacation/sick pay. Keep in mind that employees hired after 1976 are not allowed to cash out their sick leave when they retire or leave city service. We don't believe this initiative would greatly increase the cost of government. Vote YES on Prop. D.

Prop. E - Municipal Transportation Agency
Vote NO

Currently, the Public Transportation Commission is made up of the Board of Supervisors. We think that they want to get out from under the guns of the Muni controversy – don't let them. It is very easy to blame others when you truly are not doing your own job. This initiative will create another commission and will eventually become even more of a lumbering bureaucracy. If ill-functioning Muni and its unions could get their own commission, we can see the costs skyrocketing – add the parking and traffic divisions and it will only get worse. We strongly urge a NO vote on Prop. E.

Prop. F - ATM Fees
Vote NO

This ordinance won't make a bit of difference to the banks. They will simply shift the fee to another kind of service charge. Whom it will hurt is you. Most people use a variety of ATM machines out of convenience. Many of these ATM machines are in mom & pop grocery stores, bars, variety shops, and other locations. You are charged an extra fee for this convenience, of which you are notified in advance. City government should not be setting restrictive policies for legitimate, reasonable business practices. If Prop. F passes, we predict that banks may close many of their ATM locations and bank service charges will increase. Vote NO on Prop. F.

Prop. G - Sunshine Ordinance Amendment
Vote YES

This ordinance would become an expensive pill for citizens to swallow. The cost of government will soar, but we believe the cost is well worth it. How this proposition got on the ballot in the first place is the result of frustration with so many hidden agendas, complete disregard of public requests, and the general run-around as administered by the City Attorney's office. The proposition might curtail lobbyists, but we sort of doubt it. Several nonprofit agencies who receive city, state, or federal funds are

quite dismissive in their treatment of the public. We hope this proposition will correct that. There are some parts of the ordinance that will cause us many problems. We hope these little glitches will be worked out. Vote YES on Prop. G.

Prop. H - Downtown Caltrain Station
Vote NO

This initiative is a billion dollar boondoggle for folks who don't pay city taxes or live in the city. To move the Caltrain station from 4th Street and Townsend would cost the city's joint powers group approximately \$1 billion. One-third of this cost would be borne by the city as the city constitutes one-third of the joint powers group. We are afraid that state and federal monies will be sidetracked toward this stupid proposition – monies that could be better applied to purchasing new vehicles for Muni. The city has a growing problem with the lack of parking in the SOMA area. Commute buses are being forced to park farther and farther away from their bases. The Transbay Terminal handles daytime parking for lots of buses for commuters.

Where will they go? This proposition is ridiculous in its intent: \$1 billion for a 10 block-away relocation project. We strongly urge a NO vote on Prop. H.

Prop. I - Octavia Boulevard Plan
Vote NO

This is another committee effort to push personal goals. We have always believed that the city would be better served by a rebuilt freeway ramp to improve freeway/city access and to relieve surface street traffic and congestion problems. Vote NO on Prop. I.

Prop. J - Central Freeway Replacement
Vote YES

This is a no-cost-to-the-city answer to solve the Fell Street corridor access and traffic congestion problems. State and federal funds would be used to repair the freeway system. If you have to use Gough or Franklin streets during the morning, afternoon, or evening high-use periods, you know how frustrating the situation is. This is a direct result of traffic having been rerouted in such a way that there is always slow, bumper-to-bumper traffic and streets full of angry drivers. The original freeway worked well for many years and we believe that it will still work when it is repaired and rebuilt. Vote YES on J.

Prop. K - Campaign Expenditure Limit
Vote YES

This proposition is on the ballot to help contain the cost required to run for a seat on the Board of Supervisors in district elections. The voluntary spending cap for the general election is \$75,000 and \$20,000 for a runoff election. We think these are fair costs for the new district elections. Vote YES on Prop. K. ▼



Editorial

Bring a pen to the polls

by Stephen LeBlanc & Jeff Sheehy

Is San Francisco better off today than it was four years ago? Friends are being evicted. Rents are skyrocketing. Chains are forcing out neighborhood businesses. The South of Market nightlife is being extinguished by Brown's police and developer friends. Traffic is exploding. Muni, ignored and neglected, remains unreliable. Homeless people have received no additional assistance, but simply been driven out of Civic Center into the Castro and other neighborhoods. The FBI is investigating city departments. The taint of corruption in the mayor's office is at an all-time high.

The city has a \$100 million dollar surplus. The budget is a billion dollars larger under Willie Brown than it was four years

ago. Where is the money going? Based on his record thus far, four more years of Willie Brown will be a disaster for San Francisco and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

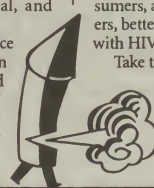
San Francisco voters have a chance to avert this disaster by taking a pen to the polls on November 2 and writing in "Mayor Tom Ammiano."

With just 18-20 percent of the vote on November 2, Supervisor Tom Ammiano would likely win one of the top two slots in the mayor's race. He would then appear on the December runoff ballot on an equal footing with the other top vote-getter. Because Ammiano has registered as a write-in candidate, every vote he receives will be counted and will be a statement for the issues

Ammiano has championed: protection for renters, better Muni, equal rights for LGBT transgender people, fair treatment for consumers, a living wage for low-income workers, better care and accountability for people with HIV, and open and honest government.

Take the two easy steps to write in "Mayor Tom Ammiano" on November 2. Look at the top of your ballot where it says "write-in ballot." Step 1. Under "Office" write "Mayor." Step 2. Under "Candidate Name" write "Mayor Tom Ammiano." It will read "Mayor Tom Ammiano."

With Clint Reilly and Brown having spent, so far, more than \$3 million to buy your votes in November, a vote for Ammiano will be a loud vote of protest against the obscene money-shows so many elections have become. ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

PAIRS is voluntary

While we are very pleased that the *Bay Area Reporter* chose to cover our Partner Assistance Information and Referral Services (PAIRS) project (October 7), we feel some clarification is required to convey the voluntary nature of the effort and the client-centered approach we take.

Partner counseling and referral services (PCRS) are voluntary, non-coercive, and confidential. Of 211 clients who tested HIV-positive at the selected confidential and anonymous test sites included in our effort, we documented that at least 54 were offered partner notification assistance – not asked to “name names.”

PCRS, a local and national standard of care, consists of individuals choosing from the following strategies: 1) self-referral, where the client chooses to disclose their status to their partners themselves, 2) provider referral, where the client requests partner notification assistance from a trained health educator who contacts partners, 3) contract referral, where the client wishes to tell their partner(s) but in the case when s/he cannot follow through, advance authorization is given for a health educator to conduct the notification, and 4) a combination of self-referral and provider referral.

We did not and do not ask anyone to volunteer names unless they 1) are interested, 2) have been told what partner notification assistance is and understand the process of all strategies, 3) are certain that no harm will come to them as a result of notification activities, and 4) give informed verbal or written consent. Under no circumstances do health educators reveal the identity of the HIV-positive client. Moreover, we have a 48-hour grace period in which the client may change their mind before we contact their partner.

For more information, call me at (415) 554-9096.

Viva Delgado, PAIRS Project Coordinator
SF Department of Public Health

Yes on I, No on J

The amount of contrived and misleading information in Paul Kozakiewicz's essay concerning the Central Freeway is absurd. [Guest Opinion, October 14.] He is the publisher of the *Richmond Review* and the *Sunset Beacon* with a shamefully obvious agenda. But the day of the Robert Moses mentality is dead in America. The restored and rejuvenated Embarcadero is living proof. Every day at rush hour and on weekends, traffic barely crawls along the Central Freeway dinosaur. A bigger, wider freeway only invites more vehicles. It will not decrease pollution, move traffic any better, or enhance the vision of a great city. There is absolutely no merit in spending millions of dollars on a second rate, incomplete, 50-year-old plan. Tear this eyesore down. Vote with intelligence for the future of San Francisco; not with myopic self-interest. Vote Yes on Proposition I and No on Proposition J.

Thomas R. Colletta
San Francisco

Mayor did donate at street fair

Your readers should know that Willie Brown did indeed make a contribution to the nonprofit agencies that collected voluntary \$2 entry donations at the Castro Street Fair. [Mailstrom, October 7.] Although Willie and his phalanx of grim bodyguards stiffed the volunteers at 19th and Castro, a Family Link volunteer at Market and Castro (a female sheriff's deputy who's not accustomed to taking “no” for an answer) met the mayor as he approached the main stage, and put a sticker on his jacket when he handed over \$5.

She later saw him heading for his Town Car without the sticker, and he explained that a little girl had taken it as he bent to talk with her, and he “didn't have the heart” to stop her. Incidentally, our volunteers also collected a \$2 donation from Clint Reilly.

Denis Wade
The Family Link

Justice for the victim

First off, we would like to thank the B.A.R., Katie Szymanski, and Mr. Marcus for all of your help in getting all the information out on Albert “Franco” Martin. [“Manslaughter charge upped in Martin case,” September 23, “Murder charge in biker death,” October 14.]

The main reason I am writing is to thank Mayor Brown's office for not returning phone calls to the Martin family or acknowledging my e-mail. It is so nice that the mayor could not take time out of his busy schedule of buying hats and getting his friends out of trouble. Is this the type of mayor we want in this city? I know I don't. Nor do I want a district attorney that is going to plea bargain for the criminals and not do justice for the victims. It was too bad that the Martin and Manning families and myself had to start a letter (e-mail) writing campaign to get the DA's office to change the charges from manslaughter to second-degree murder.

It is time for the gay community of San Francisco to really think about protecting others from the injustice that has come forth in this city. Just think if it

had been a friend or loved one of yours who was hit by someone allegedly driving a stolen car, then run over a second time by the suspects, who were trying to escape being caught by the police. Would you tolerate the DA's office trying to charge someone with manslaughter? No. I think it is time for a change. We need a mayor who really cares about the gay and lesbian community, and a district attorney that will bring justice to the victims and not the criminals.

Someone who we would very much like to thank is Tom Ammiano and Tomas Lee in his office who did offer their help and who do care. Also a very special thanks to our brothers and sisters in the leather community for sending out e-mails to the mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the DA's office. We couldn't have gotten to where we are now without your support.

On behalf of the Martin and Manning families and myself, we thank you for helping to bring “justice, not revenge,” for Franco.

Harlow M. Griffith
San Francisco

Men's Health is passé

As far as “straight-acting and appearing” gay magazines go, *Men's Health* is passé. [Out There, October 7.] My vote for “best homoerotic masquerading as a straight male fitness rag” goes to *gym* magazine (subtitled “For the Physical Man”).

In the issue I picked up (July, 1999), I found the following of interest:

- tasteful ads for revealing undergarments to “Show Off Your Manly Assets!” (the fishnet leather shorts are my personal favorite)

- a fashion shoot in Miami (“The Men, The Music, The Madness”) featuring men with shaved chests modeling the latest in hatwear

- a critical survey of the top 10 “hottest men in music,” including – duh! – Ricky Martin and, inexplicably, Chico DeBarge, whose older brother, El, “may have the bigger name but it's Chico who wins out in the bodybuilding department”

- a frothy piece comparing the fashion makeovers and career ups and downs of Cher and Fabio (Cher: “Effectively directed segment of HBO movie *If These Walls Could Talk*”; Fabio: “Effectively directed razor over smooth, hard pecs”)

- and, of course, the ubiquitous ads in the back of the magazine for 1-900 chat lines, workout videos (“featuring young stars exploding with loads of hard work and action in every sweaty inch of footage”), and penis enlargement kits.

The most interesting item in this issue, however, is the photo layout that accompanies the interview with coverboy and Detroit Tigers' rookie, Gabe Kapler, (whose fascinating personality “contradictions” and immobile arms and ass are penetratingly analyzed by writer Richard Perez-Feria) and that takes to new heights the gay male's propensity to eroticize his straight male tormentors. A photo from the article shows Kapler gripping the tool of his trade while glaring menacingly at any of the magazine's male viewers who dare to drink in every inch of Kapler's glistening, muscular, hairless (and, apparently, brief-less) bod. Bashers brandishing baseball bats, anyone?

Stephen S. Bayer
San Francisco

Costumes, volunteers needed for LHH LGBT group

Thank you for your excellent article about Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH). [“Campaign to rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital kicks off tonight,” September 9.] Activity Therapist Victoria Cameron and I very much enjoyed the opportunity to talk with the B.A.R. about this remarkable place of care and to talk about the LHH social and activity group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) residents.

The article begins discussion about an important topic that will undoubtedly gain more press with the graying of the “Gayby-boomers”: Where will aging LGBT individuals want to receive their care when they can no longer be cared for in their homes?

Many of the residents in the LHH LGBT group (aka “Rainbow Group”) previously felt alone and isolated. With peer group support, however, they have demonstrated that wheelchairs and disabilities don't get in the way of friendships and parties.

Despite the challenges of its outdated building, LHH offers many unmatched resources to the city of San Francisco. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers from the LGBT community and to the volunteers of Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) who have helped to make this program a reality.

The LGBT group always needs new volunteers who can help escort residents to the events, push their wheelchairs, or just talk and be a friend. The LGBT group also needs costumes, wigs, hats, and other materials to help celebrate Halloween.

Please contact the LHH volunteers office at (415) 759-3333 and specify their interest in volunteering for the LGBT group.

Charles H. Stinson, M.D.
Laguna Honda Hospital

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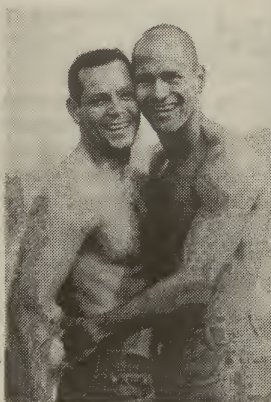
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A PROJECT FOR LATINO GAY/BISEXUAL MEN

Pain and Clinton in La-La land

by Dale Carpenter

The president is big on pain. He has felt our pain. He has brought pain to his marriage. He has witnessed "the pain ... gay and lesbian Americans have endured." And Lord knows he has given us pain.

Bill Clinton went to Los Angeles last month to speak about pain to the very same group of gay politicians he brought to tears seven years ago. The occasion was another annual dinner of L.A.-based Access Now for Gay and Lesbian Equality (ANGLE). He told them, as he did in 1992, "I have a vision for America and you are part of it."

Why the audience did not burst out in uncontrollable laughter at that moment is one of the great political mysteries of the age.

Instead, in the course of Clinton's rambling 30-minute address, they interrupted him with applause or approving chuckles 41 times. And for Clinton's labors they gave him and his smiling comrades \$850,000, a record donation for a gay political event. This looniness—perhaps to be expected in celebrity-obsessed LaLa land—is the consequence of having a president for whom politics is therapy and an audience for whom sycophancy is principle.

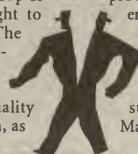
Clinton did allow that, in the time since his first ANGLE speech, "I could have done better." But he added, "we're a long way from where we were." Let's see just what that means.

Start with Clinton's promise to end the ban on gays in the military. From 1982 to 1994, discharges from the military because of homosexuality declined every year. Since 1994, the year "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" became law, military discharges for homosexuality have risen every year.

Life for gay service members is more painful now than it was before Bill Clinton told us he had a

vision for America and we were part of it. And no future president can undo that damage with a stroke of the pen since, for the first time in American history, we have a federal statute that singles out homosexual sex for punishment.

Yes, there have been a lot of firings for gays during Clinton's tenure. Look at gay marriage. In early 1996, Clinton loudly approved a proposed ban on federal recognition of gay marriage before a bill had even been drafted, much less introduced and voted upon. The result was the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Clinton signed DOMA—we should never, never forget this—even as he chased



OutRight

Monica around his desk.

Who can forget that Clinton then trumpeted his hypocritical defense of marriage on Christian radio stations? ANGLE can. No president can undo this damage either since, for the first time in American history, we have a federal statute that explicitly defines marriage to exclude gay couples.

Clinton didn't mention these developments in his L.A. speech. He also didn't mention one of the painful little spin-offs of DOMA—a divisive statewide ballot initiative Californians will face in March that would define gay marriages out of existence.

Think about it: Clinton goes to California and fails to stand up against the most viciously anti-gay referendum the state has seen in two decades. It's just more disgraceful political cowardice, to be sure. But for once Clinton's conspicuous silence may be an unintended benefit to the cause. There are, after all, few public figures in America less credible on the subject of marriage than Bill Clinton.

There's the pain of AIDS, too. Remember Clinton's Manhattan Project to cure the disease? Neither does he. The Republican Congress, those inveterate warriors of the far right, twice exceeded Clinton's pitiable budget

proposals for assisting AIDS patients too poor to pay for their drugs.

"But the mean Republicans stopped him from doing more," cry Clinton's indefatigable gay defenders. It doesn't matter to them that in every instance the president has either betrayed us, abandoned us, or not lifted a finger to help us.

"But he's done so much!" they counter. In his L.A. speech, the Man himself listed exactly three things he's done for us. First, he claims he supports ENDA (Employment Non-discrimination Act), the bill that would forbid anti-gay job discrimination across the country. Second, he wants to pass a federal hate crimes law. And finally, he's given openly gay people some tasks in his administration.

The first two are nothing. Clinton has not given one speech focusing on the necessity or rationale for ENDA. When he and congressional Democrats reigned supreme in the first two years of his presidency, they didn't even hold a hearing on the bill. True, Clinton issued an executive order barring anti-gay discrimination in federal employment. But even that laudable act was saved from congressional oblivion only by the courageous work of people like Representative Jim Kolbe, a gay Republican.

There's no evidence that a federal hate crimes bill would actually prevent anti-gay crimes. Clinton's support of the proposal is just another way to tell us he feels our pain. And gee, wouldn't it be nice to stop it?

Then there are the openly gay appointees, dragged out of their hovels every time someone questions Clinton's pro-gay credentials. I'm sure they're all good people. Quick: can you name one?

Perhaps you thought of the capable and urbane James Hormel, a big Democratic campaign donor, the one gay person in seven long years Clinton took pains to defend. As they say, you have to start somewhere. Luxembourg is somewhere.

All in all, I think I'd ask for my money back. You can get a whole lot of aspirin for \$850,000. ▼

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**Bianco at
Books Inc.
tonight**

by Cynthia Laird

David Bianco, whose nationally syndicated Past Out column appears in the Bay Area Reporter, will be at Books Inc., 2275 Market Street tonight (Thursday, October 21) to sign copies of his new book, *Gay Essentials*. The book, published by Alyson Publications, is a collection of his Past Out columns, which look at the history of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Books Inc. is located at 2275 Market Street, between Noe and Sanchez streets, and the signing starts at 8 p.m. ▼

POLITICS

Reform Party takes in all kinds

by Wayne Friday

What is happening to the national Reform Party – the political party originally founded in 1992 by the maverick billionaire **Ross Perot** as a place to go for those who had become disenchanted with both the Republican and Democratic parties? Well, the Reform Party has quickly become a place for political misfits of all philosophies from the far-right **Pat Buchanan** to the far-left **Lenora Fulani** and the likes of pro-wrestler-turned-Minnesota Governor **Jesse Ventura**, former Connecticut U.S. Senator **Lowell Weicker**, now formally an independent, and New York billionaire developer **Donald Trump**.

In other words, the Reform Party, a dumping place for those who cannot make it in the two mainstream parties, is becoming the laughingstock of national politics. Not only has the Reform Party become a party in search of a credible candidate for president, but indeed, a party now in search of a purpose. What can one really say about a party that includes the soon-to-be-former-Republican, Hitler-sympathizer **Buchanan**, along with the Communist-loving **Fulani** – a party of the proverbial “large tent,” perhaps. Who will eventually end up next year as the presidential standard-bearer of the Reform Party? Probably **Buchanan**; he will eventually have Perot's big bucks behind his candidacy and the Democratic Party couldn't be happier about that prospect. Stay tuned to the antics of the Reform Party and keep an eye on the three-ring circus that Perot founded; this one should be fun to watch. Incidentally, those close to **Buchanan** (who's expected to announce his switch formally on October 25) say he will pick a woman as his running mate if indeed he lands the Reform nomination, but it won't be **Fulani**.

Politics and people

A number of people, including a couple of top political Democratic heavyweights, are urging Police Commission President **Dennis Herrera**, a bright, young, well-liked maritime attorney, to run for supervisor in the 10th District (Potrero Hill/Bayview) next year.

Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, Treasurer **Susan Leal**,

and Supervisors **Mark Leno** and **Leslie Katz** are the honorary chairs of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club's annual awards celebration, being held this Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Wilkes Bashford, 375 Sutter Street. Mayor **Willie Brown** will be the featured speaker (tix: \$100; call 550-8587 for info).

A first: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont says it will offer domestic partner coverage starting January 1, 2000.

Incidentally, Vermont state Auditor **Ed Flanagan**, a progressive Democrat, is given a better-than-even chance of winning his party's U.S. Senate nomination in that state next year and reportedly has a 50-50 chance of winning the general election and becoming the nation's first openly gay U.S. senator.

Al Gore's presidential campaign got a big boost this week with the

endorsement of New Hampshire Governor **Jeanne Shaheen**; that state holds the nation's first primary on February 1.

Meanwhile, those close to the Gore campaign are saying they are trying to figure a way to slip the scandal-ridden **Bill Clinton** into the political background while still taking advantage of the president's fundraising skills.

Governor **Gray Davis** finally named some judges last week – nine of them – but there are several attorneys here in San Francisco still awaiting that call from the gov.

In other news from the Statehouse, **Davis** is making only one endorsement in contested Democratic primaries for the March 7 election; **Davis** has endorsed lesbian Assemblywoman **Sheila Kuehl** over Assemblyman **Wally Knox** in the contest for the state Senate nomination in the West Los Angeles 23rd District.

Republicans expect sparks to fly as Arizona U.S. Senator **John McCain** and millionaire publisher **Steve Forbes** get to face **George W. Bush** for the first time when the GOP presidential candidates square off in their first debate December 2 in New Hampshire.

Although the Democratic version of the HMO/Patient Protection Act won by a 275-151 vote, with the help of numerous Republicans, his constituents might want to know that Representative **Tom Campbell**, that notoriously “independent/moderate” Repub-

and Gordon Smith (Oregon) were among those who supported the plan.

Ivers called HRC's strategy “contradictory,” because it used the amending process known as a “rider” to promote the HCPA while the group simultaneously attacked others' use of riders in the form of anti-gay amendments to the D.C. appropriations bill.

A congressional lobbyist, who asked not to be identified, noted that none of the appropriate committees in either chamber of Congress had voted on the HCPA. And “passage” in the Senate was by unanimous consent, without debate or a recorded vote, along with

ican from Santa Clara, voted with the right-wing leadership of the GOP-controlled House and against the all-important patient protection bill.

The multi-talented Grammy-award winning singer **Melissa Etheridge** has dedicated the song “Scarecrow” – the most powerful song on her new *Breakdown* album – to the memory of **Matthew Shepard**, the gay University of Wyoming student murdered last year. “I can forgive/but I will not forget,” Etheridge sings.

And yes, I do want to mention that **Sharon McNight**, one of the biggest talents around and one of those first in the fight against the AIDS pandemic, brings her all-new *Anthems* show to the Plush Room in the York Hotel from November 3-14 (885-2800 for reservations).

After nearly five years of Clinton's frustrating, tortured “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” military policy, the Air Force has come up with yet another strange idea. Seemingly inviting gay members to lie, at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas – which has seen a sharp increase in forced discharges of gays in recent years – investigators are allowing gay recruits who have openly acknowledged their sexual orientation to escape expulsion proceedings if they recant. If they say, “I didn't mean it,” they can stay. Go figure.

The *San Francisco Examiner* has endorsed Mayor **Brown** for re-election and attorney **Bill Fazio** for district attorney.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee will sponsor “Afternoon Tea” with first lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** on Saturday, November 6 at the Fairmont Hotel with proceeds going to help Mrs. Clinton's upcoming campaign for the Senate, representing New York (\$250 asked, 978-0990 for info).

Progress in Kentucky: Jefferson, that state's most populous county, last week approved a gay rights ordinance that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

However, in Annapolis, Maryland, Governor **Parris Glendening** (D), who earlier this year became the first Maryland governor to propose gay rights legislation, said last week he wouldn't renew his effort this year because he couldn't get the proposal past a key conservative GOP-controlled state Senate committee; the bill would have prohibited discrimination in employment and housing because of sexual orientation. And how was your week? ▼



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Hate crimes bill

◀ page 1

divided on the issue. However, spokesman **Kevin Ivers** criticized HRC for “setting up a confrontation between the parties” by choosing not to go the traditional route of passing legislation through committees. He claimed that “friendly” Republicans have been burned by this endgame” by adopting the strategy of attaching the HCPA to an appropriations bill.

Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director, denied that. She noted that Republican Senators **Arlen Specter** (Pennsylvania)

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Rude awakening

by Jane Warner and
Ron McGlashan

8th and Folsom, October 10, 1:30 p.m.: A woman who frequents a South of Market nightclub awoke to find that she had been stabbed in the side. The victim said she was drinking all day and night prior to filing the police report. She often visits the club with a male escort but could not remember his name. The case is under investigation.



Crime & Punishment

J walker

Church and 18th, October 9, 9 p.m.: An man who appeared to be drunk and waiting for Muni's J line at 18th and Church

streets began yelling racial slurs, pacing, and swinging a bottle at others waiting at the bus stop. The crowd tried to ignore him, but when the bus arrived, the man yelled homophobic slurs at passengers as he boarded. One of the passengers, offended by the remarks, picked up the suspect and threw him out of the bus. Angry, the suspect threw his beer bottle through the bus door, which hit a 70-year-old woman. Several passengers got off the bus to hold the suspect until police arrived. Booked for aggravated assault was Roger Castillo, 36. The woman was treated by a physician riding the bus for minor lacerations to her hands.

No, really, lock your bike

Collingwood area, week of October 9: Once again, bicycle thefts experienced a surge in the Castro recently, with two incidents in the same week on Collingwood Street. Two bikes were stolen from the back of a pickup truck on October 9 at about 10 p.m. at Collingwood and 18th streets after the thief pried open the lock on the truck camper's shell.

The bikes were silver and blue and valued at over \$950.

In the early morning hours of October 12, a burglar broke into a residential garage and stole a hunter green 21-speed Cannondale bike, valued at \$1,300.

No suspects are known in either incident.

Just us

200 block of Sanchez, October 10, 7:40 p.m.: Police were called to a possible burglary in progress and found two men inside a gated area who had apparently been squatting in storage rooms adjacent to the property's walkway. One of the men had a spark plug tied to a string, a common tool in car burglaries. Both men had out-

standing warrants. Booked for possession of burglary tools and no-bail warrants were Scott Miller, 38, and Paul Rodriguez, 35. The trespassing offense is under investigation.

Frequent fliers beware

Before you call in to police to report a crime, evaluate the situation. There are people known as "frequent fliers," who regularly report situations which prove to be nothing more than an annoyance. In some cases, the caller has it in for a neighbor, and to flex his or her muscles, files a false police report. This is not only a waste of personnel, but it is also a crime. Filing a false report and supplying false information are misdemeanors that carry stiff fines. Do report anything that is legitimately a threat, but don't play police games if you're not in bed. ▼

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and the men and women of the SFPD who protect and serve you. For information call the office at (415) 553-1651, or Ron at (415) 776-9399. The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

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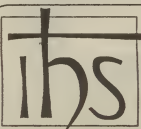
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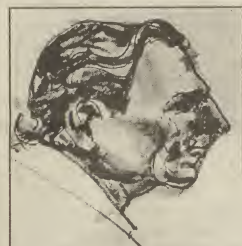
Sailor's story

◀ page 1

incur.

Nary left his clothes — soaked with Pifarre's blood — in a ball by the front door. He was in a hurry, he said, because he didn't want Pifarre to come after him again. This is after he allegedly went through Pifarre's pants, washed himself, re-dressed, drank some water, and spent a not-so-hurried amount of time in Pifarre's apartment after choking him.

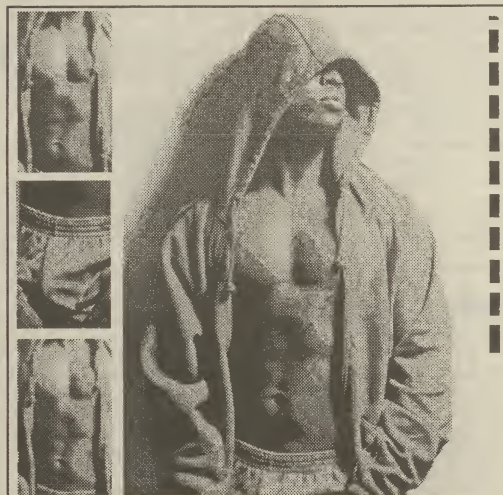
Consistently inconsistent and illogical, Nary's "victim" defense will probably not be helped by his testimony. While Hotchkiss was hoping to prove Nary's naiveté and fear based on his sheltered background, the prosecution has already produced a gay guide book showing that Nary's high



Court sketch of Steven Nary

school — on Dinah Shore Boulevard, no less — was a couple of blocks from a strip of over 10 gay bars and resorts. Nary's sheltered upbringing was, in fact, in the midst of a Palm Springs getaway.

The trial continued on Tuesday and will probably wrap up within the week. ▼



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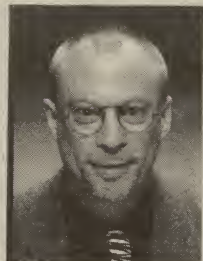
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 Interested operators, please fax name, address, phone and fax numbers to Michael Simmons at 415-541-0376. Expected Project opening, January 2001. **Proposal deadline: November 15**

City opens hepatitis immunization clinic

by Liz Highleyman

On October 6, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) held an opening ceremony for the city's first walk-in immunization clinic for adults. The Adult Immunization Clinic will provide hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccinations. The ribbon-cutting was attended by Mayor Willie Brown, Health Director Dr. Mitchell Katz, members of the city's Health Commission, and Supervisor Gavin Newsom and the staff of Newsom's Plumpjack restaurant.

Hepatitis A, the most common type of viral hepatitis, is an acute liver inflammation that generally lasts about one to two months. The hepatitis A virus (HAV) is typically transmitted through feces; it may be spread by contact with contaminated food and water, household contact, or oral-anal sex. The HAV vaccine consists of an initial injection followed by a booster. The U.S. Public Health Service recommends the HAV vaccine for men who have sex with men, injection drug users, international travelers, military personnel, and daycare workers. It is recommended that travelers to regions where hepatitis A is endemic, or to areas with poor sanitation, receive the HAV vaccine a least a month before embarking. Many public health officials also recommend the vaccine for food service workers. There is no treatment for hepatitis A, but postexposure prevention is possible.

The hepatitis B virus (HBV) is spread through contact with contaminated blood or sexual contact. Unlike HAV, HBV remains in the body of about 10 percent of infected adults and can lead to



Supervisor Gavin Newsom got his hepatitis A vaccine at the health department's newly opened Adult Immunization Clinic.

chronic hepatitis resulting in cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer, and death. The HBV vaccine involves a series of three injections over the course of six months. It was initially recommended for healthcare workers, injection drug users, and men who have sex with men, but is now given as a routine childhood vaccination. Treatment for hepatitis B with interferon and various antiviral drugs is often long and difficult.

Hepatitis C is spread through blood and, less often, via sexual contact. The hepatitis C virus leads to chronic liver disease in an estimated 80-90 percent of infected people. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C. Treatment for hepatitis C consists of interferon and antiviral drugs, but is often unsuccessful.

Cost for the vaccinations is \$42 per dose for hepatitis A, \$50 per dose for hepatitis B, and the clinic offers a flu shot for \$7. "They're the

cheapest rates in town," Eileen Shields, public information officer for DPH, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The DPH has been working with the Golden Gate Restaurant Association to make the hepatitis A vaccine available at an affordable rate to restaurant workers. Plumpjack was the first local restaurant to have its entire staff vaccinated. The DPH will provide discounts and on-site vaccination for large groups. ▼

The Adult Immunization Clinic is located at 101 Grove Street, room 405 (between Polk and Van Ness). October hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Additional hours will be added in November. Clients may pay with cash, credit cards, or ATM cards. For more information, call (415) 554-2625.

CDC announces syphilis eradication effort

by Liz Highleyman

On October 8, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched a campaign to eradicate syphilis in the United States. The announcement was made by Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher and Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, CDC director, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The CDC's campaign to reduce syphilis relies on strategies that allow public health officials to respond more quickly to outbreaks, including increased screening, rapid testing in clinics, expanded laboratory services, and

community education efforts. Congress has allocated \$10 million toward the effort, and the CDC will contribute additional funds to 33 areas with high syphilis rates.

Efforts to reduce syphilis are already underway in San Francisco; the city has a Syphilis Elimination Team and an outbreak response plan. According to Dr. Jeff Klausner, the Department of Public Health's (DPH) director of STD services, "We are actively working with community leaders to enhance awareness and screening efforts within the at-risk populations." The DPH is in the process of organizing a community meeting to provide an update on sexually transmitted diseases in the city.

Officials hope that the National Plan for Syphilis Elimination can reduce the number of syphilis cases nationwide from the current 7,000 cases to under 1,000 per year by 2005. Last year, the U.S. syphilis rate was 2.6 cases per 100,000 person, a 19 percent decrease from the previous year and the lowest ever reported. Syphilis rates have declined steadily throughout the decade; the 1998 figure represents an 86 percent decrease from 1990, when syphilis prevalence peaked at 22 cases per 100,000 persons. The new campaign will attempt to reduce the rate to .4 cases per 100,000 per-

sons per year. According to Dr. Judith Wasserheit, the CDC's director of sexually transmitted disease prevention, "We have an unprecedented opportunity to eliminate syphilis ... because disease rates are at an all-time low and because the disease is so concentrated geographically."

In San Francisco, the DPH STD Annual Morbidity Summary released last month indicated that the number of syphilis cases in the city declined 29 percent, from 187 cases in 1997 to 132 in 1998. The number of early or recently acquired syphilis cases reported in 1998 was 40, a steep decline from the 73 cases seen in 1997; the 1997 figure represented a spike in cases, and the 1998 number was close to the level seen in 1996.

As is the case nationally, the San Francisco figures for recent years represent a dramatic decline from rates in past decades; the rate in the city peaked at 2,000 cases of early syphilis in 1982. The disease garnered increased local attention this past July when the DPH issued an alert about a cluster of syphilis cases detected among a group of gay men who met their sex partners through an Internet chatroom.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease that typically begins with genital, anal, or oral sores that usually clear up without

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As a State Assemblyman and as Mayor, WILLIE BROWN has always been there for our community.

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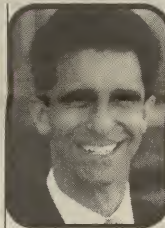
- ▼ Wrote the CONSENTING ADULTS ACT that in 1975 ELIMINATED CRIMINAL PENALTIES for private sex acts between consenting adults.
- ▼ Has been a leader since the 1970s in building the coalitions that DEFEATED ANTI-GAY BALLOT INITIATIVES in California.
- ▼ Fought for and won in 1983 the nation's FIRST STATE FUNDING for AIDS research, prevention and care.
- ▼ First secured passage of legislation to BAN DISCRIMINATION against lesbians/gay men in EMPLOYMENT and HOUSING (*Vetoed repeatedly by Republican Governors Deukmejian and Wilson and just signed into law by Governor Davis*).

AS MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO

- ▼ Has set an unprecedented national standard for VISIBLE LGBT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION and LEADERSHIP by appointing members of our community to HEAD THE CITY'S LARGEST MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS.
- ▼ Has appointed at least one representative of our community to nearly every CITY COMMISSION, including many COMMISSION PRESIDENTS.
- ▼ Appointed a lesbian, LESLIE KATZ and a gay man, MARK LENO to the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, and a lesbian, ANDREA SHORTER to the COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD.
- ▼ Convened the MAYOR'S SUMMIT ON AIDS to shape City policy on MEDICAL CARE, HIV PREVENTION, HOUSING and EMPLOYMENT REENTRY.
- ▼ Has worked nationally to PROMOTE NEEDLE EXCHANGE and MEDICAL MARIJUANA and to DEFEAT HIV NAMES REPORTING.
- ▼ Has made Harvey Milk's dream of a COMMUNITY CENTER come true by committing \$6 million to its construction, which will begin in October.
- ▼ Pushed NATIONAL CORPORATIONS into providing DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS and leads the nation in promoting GAY MARRIAGE RIGHTS.



Lesbian activist Pat Norman, whom Mayor Brown appointed as President of the Police Commission, and pioneer AIDS researcher Dr. Marcus Conant rode with Willie Brown in the 1995 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Freedom Day Parade.



"Mayor Willie Brown strongly supports San Francisco's small business community. He created the Small Business Commission and organized the Mayor's Small Business Forum — all to promote proactive efforts in defense of our neighborhood businesses."

**SUPERVISOR
Mark Leno**



"It's taken over twenty years for our community to realize Harvey Milk's dream of a Community Center of our own — a space that provides lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders with safety from a hostile society and a place to receive support, build pride and nurture self-esteem. Mayor Willie Brown's leadership made the difference in making our dream a reality."

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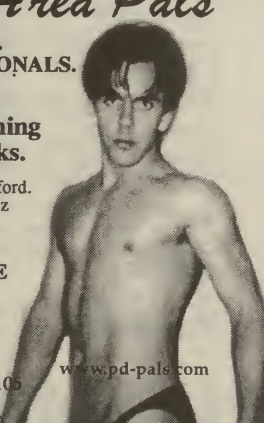
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Brownie points Mayor in tight re-election bid

by Katie Szymanski

He certainly has his critics. From the arrogant image of him in king's clothing that graced the front page of a daily newspaper, to the remaining problems with Muni and the recent scrapped plan to seize shopping carts from the homeless, he may not have the best campaign strategies. But many believe that no mayor has done more for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community than Willie Brown.

Known across the country as the mayor who told national businesses to adhere to San Francisco's domestic partnership policies or "get out of town," Brown has consistently included LGBT people in his platform and in top positions within his administration.

Brown is in a tight re-election race and if no candidate wins more than a simple majority on November 2, there will be a December runoff. There are 15 people running for mayor, including the last-minute addition of Board

of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano as a write-in candidate.

Brown has appointed several LGBT people as heads of government agencies, and "These are real positions," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"There are more than 50 gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people who serve in my administration," said Brown, citing the positions of Director of Public Works, Director of Community Development, Director of Legislative Affairs, and Director of Neighborhood Services. Brown also appointed the first transgender woman to the Taxi Commission and appointed openly gay and lesbian health commissioners as well as the openly gay director of the Department of Public Health.

During his long career in Sacramento - where he served as an assemblyman and for many years as speaker, he authored the "consenting adults" law to repeal the state's sodomy law in the 1970s and authored legislation in favor of AIDS funding in the 1980s.



Willie Brown

Just last month, he participated in "Teach Against Hate Day" in the city schools, which included a stop at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy.

"I have always led by example," said Brown of his efforts to combat LGBT-phobia in San Francisco. Many gay rights advocates agree, but wonder, what kind of example has he set for other issues?

On the sour subject of Muni, Brown said he "wholeheartedly" supports Proposition E, the Muni reform initiative.

"I made a dumb comment about fixing Muni in 100 days," he said, referring to the infamous campaign promise he made before he won the mayor's race in 1995. "But I've also said I won't rest until San Francisco has the

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Reilly wants win for himself

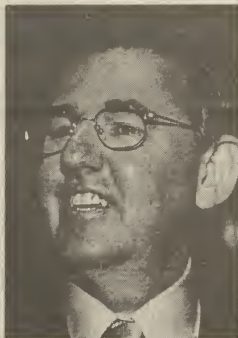
by Cynthia Laird

After years of helping politicians win campaigns, former political consultant and millionaire businessman Clint Reilly wants to win a race for himself - he wants to be mayor of San Francisco. If none of the 15 candidates - Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano announced last week he has launched a write-in effort - win with 50 percent plus one of the vote on November 2, there will be a December runoff. Reilly is one of the leading challengers to Mayor Willie Brown, as is former Mayor Frank Jordan.

Reilly returned the *Bay Area Reporter's* questionnaire that outlines his positions on several issues of importance to the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

A lifelong Democrat, Reilly said he has worked for nearly three decades on progressive causes and candidates. "Throughout my career, I have strongly believed that putting quality people into public office is itself a form of public service," Reilly stated.

In 1976, he managed the campaign for district elections, which "led directly to Harvey Milk's victory in a huge step forward against homophobia in San Francisco," stated Reilly. In 1977, Reilly



Clint Reilly

ly was in Miami to "help lead the fight against Anita Bryant's homophobic hate crusade against gay rights, and I was happy to serve as the national spokesman for that campaign." Reilly said that he has been a participant in the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade.

Muni has emerged as one of the top issues in this year's mayoral race. Reilly has written a booklet that outlines his proposals for improving the troubled municipal railway system. "The problem with Muni is not money, but management," stated Reilly. "The mayor is unable to fix the system because he knows nothing about management ... and has essentially privatized the Muni Metro through Booz-Allen [consultants who have an incentive-based contract to improve the metro portion of the Muni system]."

"As mayor, I will impose the changes necessary in the drivers' contract to put riders service first, not last behind employee perks; I will fire Booz-Allen; ... and I will increase public access to Muni safety records and tougher safety standards to prevent avoidable accidents," the candidate stated.

Another concern to many voters is the lack of affordable housing in the city. "Homeless Solutions" is Reilly's comprehensive

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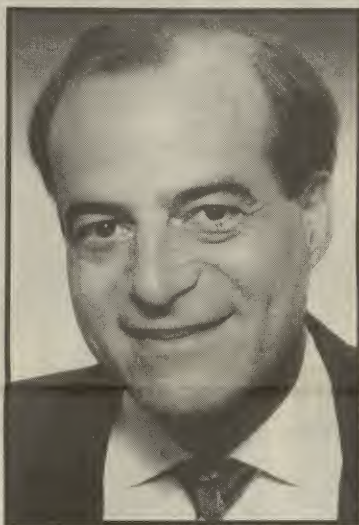
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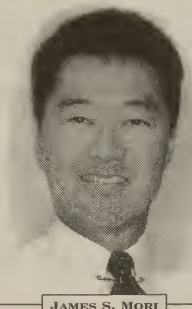
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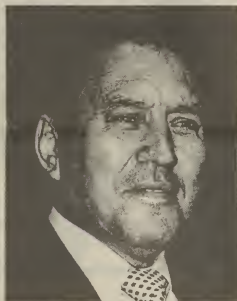
Lesser-known mayoral hopefuls

Running on a shoestring

compiled by Cynthia Laird

They don't have much in the way of name recognition or big budgets, and with 14 candidates running for mayor of San Francisco — plus Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's last-minute write-in candidacy — many of the lesser-known candidates have had a hard time getting their messages out to the voters. Some debate organizers left out all but the "top three" candidates — Mayor Willie Brown, former Mayor Frank Jordan, and former political consultant Clint Reilly — in televised debates that were held in late August and September.

The *Bay Area Reporter* sent questionnaires to all the declared candidates for mayor and received responses from most of them on issues of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Of the non-gay-identified lesser-known candidates, Cesar Ascarrunz, Martin Eng, Mark "Superbooty" O'Hara, Joel Ventresca, and Max Woods answered the *B.A.R.*'s questions, which are summarized below. Profiles of the gay and lesbian candidates — Jim Reid and Lucrecia Bermúdez — appear on the following pages.



Cesar Ascarrunz

Ascarrunz, a businessman, said he has worked to combat homophobia by hosting fundraising events in North Beach for the lesbian and gay community. "As owner of Cesar's Latin Palace, I conducted over 100 benefits for gay and lesbian organizations," he said.

An independent, Ascarrunz stated that a multifaceted plan needs to be developed for improving the municipal railway system, including a restructuring of the Muni union work rules.

In terms of easing the housing crunch in San Francisco, Ascarrunz stated that: "The main task in increasing affordable housing in San Francisco is to establish a percentage rule which forces builders to either set aside a cer-

tain number of affordable housing units per construction site or the making of a direct contribution to a housing building fund."

Regarding what some describe as the gentrification of the Castro District, Ascarrunz stated that: "Each neighborhood should have a say as to how it will maintain its character and makeup."

In terms of increasing information about city services to the LGBT and AIDS communities, Ascarrunz stated that all city departments should have an assigned staff person whose primary responsibility focuses on the dissemination of information about city services to the LGBT and AIDS communities.

What is the one thing Ascarrunz would like the LGBT community to know about him? "That all the other candidates continue to pay lip service to the LGBT and AIDS communities. I have over 25 years experience working with these communities and began supporting these issues particularly at a time when it was not popular to support them."



Martin Eng

Eng stated that he would be mayor "to all people," and emphasized safety first, regardless of the person. He also believes in respect for all people and in establishing programs to keep teenagers busy. Eng is currently an independent and is the founder of an Internet company.

Eng's platform for improving Muni involves reorganization, including the transit workers union.

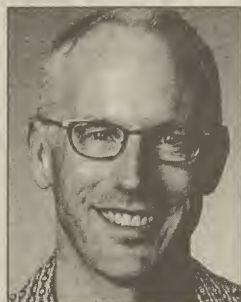
Regarding affordable housing, Eng stated that it is a supply and demand issue. "I will only assist the resident homeless from San Francisco. The mega-commercial developers should be burdened with some of the responsibilities, by providing some housing, some money, and some expertise."

On the issue of chain stores, Eng said he is a strong advocate of protecting neighborhood characteristics and that he intends to protect local businesses.

Eng said the Internet should

be utilized to inform the LGBT and AIDS communities about available city services.

What is the one thing Eng would like the LGBT community to know about him? "I am a candidate for change. I see the current mayor as failing in all areas, especially to the LGBT community; Muni and the homeless are not any better. Housing and rental costs are at an all-time high and if I can force all city workers to work an honest day, there will be plenty of surpluses for the city and all programs. I will re-appoint positions that are within my power."



Mark "Superbooty" O'Hara

O'Hara, a funk vocalist and the Reform Party candidate for mayor, said that the party is working "to create a new kind of politics that will bring everyone in our society to the decision-making table as equal partners without the corrupt influences of money and privilege. I believe that's the only way to bring about political action that speaks to the most fundamental needs of the average LGBT person."

On the topic of improving Muni, O'Hara stated that in principle, he supports Proposition E on the November ballot, since it was created as a result of grassroots citizen action. The key thing about the measure is that — if approved — a new commission appointed by the mayor will run Muni. "It is essential that we continue the political pressure to keep opening the process for the people in making public transportation decisions, including decisions about Muni work rules," O'Hara stated.

Regarding affordable housing, O'Hara said that all economic and social factors that have produced the housing problems in the city need to be examined.

About making the Department of Public Health (DPH) more accountable to the LGBT and AIDS communities, O'Hara stated, "The DPH should be accountable to all the people and all the communities. Perhaps there

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Vocal reform

by Katie Szymanski

In a mayoral race where anything can happen, Latina lesbian candidate Lucrecia Bermúdez — billing herself as the “only progressive candidate” — is probably best recognized as the woman who interrupted public debates from which she and other lesser-known candidates were excluded. Holding a bullhorn and demanding equal time at forums that are supposed to be a chance for voters to be informed about their choices, Bermúdez has twice been hauled away by security guards and police shortly after she opened her mouth.

“I’m raising consciousness about the fact that politics is still a straight male dominated profession,” Bermúdez told the *Bay Area Reporter*. “We should change that.” Bermúdez is the only woman running in a field of 15 in the November 2 mayoral race.

Demonstrations aside, however, Bermúdez would like to be known for her platform of left

politics that includes social change, civil rights, and working class liberation. She has run for office several times, most recently as a candidate for supervisor last year.

“The progressive left,” said Bermúdez, “is the only multicultural, pro-neighborhood, pro-tenant, independent movement in town.” Bermúdez, herself an immigrant, works as an immigrant rights advocate, and sees promise in building coalitions among all minority groups.

“I’m very proud of the fact that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities supported the rights of immigrants by voting against Proposition 187 and supported the right of women and people of color by voting against Proposition 209. We have to continue building coalitions along those lines.”

As for LGBT matters, Bermúdez said she is active in the struggle against the Knight initiative, “not because I defend the institution of marriage,” she explained, “but because I don’t like others to define for us what our

choices should be.” She participates in many community organizations that focus on or support LGBT rights and equality for everyone, and supports the idea of several LGBT liaisons in the city’s Department of Public Health.

The housing crisis, said Bermúdez, is another issue that has failed LGBT people, particularly people living with AIDS.

“There are a number of sites that should immediately be dedicated to the building of affordable housing,” she said. “The Presidio, Mission Bay, Treasure Island, the land freed by Octavia Boulevard (if the proposition opposing the freeway is approved). People living with AIDS and other catastrophic illnesses should be given first priority — together with families with children — in obtaining affordable housing.”

Bermúdez also favors lower rents, more tenants’ rights such as rent control and vacancy control, and plans to withdraw all city money in financial institutions to create a community-controlled bank that would, among other



Lucrecia Bermúdez

things, invest its money in affordable housing and loans for first-time home buyers.

Noting the problems with Muni, Bermúdez said she is against “looking for a scapegoat,” and is opposed to the Muni reform initiative [Proposition E], as it contains “a number of issues that could be construed as the privatization of our public transportation system.”

“I’m in favor of an elected board of workers and riders to run Muni, as the initiative unfair-

ly punishes workers for failing to deliver efficient service,” she said. “The mayor and elected board should take full responsibility for our public transportation.”

On the issue of the gentrification of the Castro and other neighborhoods, Bermúdez said that she would support a system where referendums sought the opinions of all the neighbors before any major changes were made.

“Neighbors,” she said, “should define neighborhoods.” She supports favoring small businesses over chains and wants businesses to hire locally.

Most of all, Bermúdez said, she supports what she believes all the people of San Francisco want: a voice.

“I am running for mayor not because I chose to, but because a group of organizations and individuals elected me to represent them,” she said. “Our main purpose is to take back San Francisco and preserve it against gentrification, and represent those without a voice.” ▼

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The riding renegade

by Katie Szymanski

He calls himself the “dark horse” candidate for mayor. But Jim Reid — a gay man and former remodeling contractor who can be seen driving his “Jim Reid for Mayor” pickup truck through city streets — is gaining recognition as the candidate who “rides Muni every day” and wants to build a series of 10-foot cubicles for the homeless along city streets.

Reid is one of the underdog candidates in a field of 15 in the November 2 election for mayor of San Francisco.

While his ideas have been called “wild,” he has turned more than a few heads, winning 51 percent of the endorsement vote from the Rescue Muni organization, in part because of his 48-hour Muni rides that he takes in order to understand and critique the system. (Reid was actually late for the Rescue Muni endorsement meeting because he was riding Muni.) Reid embarked on another 48-hour ride on October 7 in order to “draw attention to the shortcomings of Proposition E,” the Muni reform initiative.

“I am the official opponent of Proposition E,” Reid told the *Bay Area Reporter*. “Unless the mayor rides the buses and trains regularly he will not understand firsthand how much more work needs to be done.”

He proposes an elected board of riders, drivers, and taxpayers as a Muni management team that will oversee public transportation operations.

Reid is also active in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, and participated in all of the marches on Washington, narrowly dodging arrest for draping a rainbow flag from the Capitol building during the last march. He has built three floats for San Francisco's LGBT Pride Parade and was the float co-chair of the parade in 1996.



Jim Reid

“I take the rainbow flag everywhere I go,” said Reid, “and educate people about the meaning of the flag and the diversity of our community.”

As for the housing crisis, Reid's cubicle idea is a bit more complicated than it sounds.


“I propose teaching homeless people how to build 10 by 10 cubicles that the city can deed to them over 10 years in exchange for adopting a city block or park, managing litter, graffiti, and trees,” said Reid. “This program could turn San Francisco neighborhoods into clean green environments and provide housing for 2,000 former homeless people. Telling people they should move out of San Francisco if they can't afford to live here is not a solution to our housing problem.”

Reid also favors giving housing priority to people with special needs, such as people with AIDS and the elderly.

When asked about gentrification issues, Reid said he favors giving residents a say in what businesses enter the neighborhood.


“I believe the government has a responsibility to protect some businesses, that are wanted by the community, from going out of

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Mayor's race

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could be improved communication, but I believe the most crying need is to address the lack of a specific mechanism for involving all San Franciscans, including the LGBT community, in directing, evaluating, and benefiting from the policies of the DPH.

What does O'Hara want the LGBT community to know about him? "That I am running for mayor to help revitalize our democracy—to build a new kind of political environment in the city that will empower the people to make the decisions that are best for everyone and to be able to implement those decisions."



Joel Ventresca

Ventresca, who works at San Francisco International Airport, is no stranger to political campaigns. He ran unsuccessfully for city treasurer two years ago and has been a longtime neighborhood activist. Ventresca, a Democrat, said he has consistently supported gay civil rights initiatives

and consistently condemned bigotry all of his adult life.

Ventresca opposes Proposition E regarding Muni because too much control would rest with an appointed commission. Ventresca would create a public transit system that is safe, comfortable, convenient, on-time, and user-friendly and would implement an annual downtown transit assessment fee.

Ventresca said he would implement controls to prevent gentrification-induced displacement and to stop national chain store projects. "Chain stores drain local capital out of the community and drive out of business locally owned and operated neighborhood-serving businesses," he said.

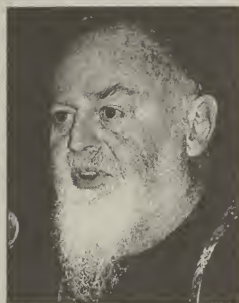
Regarding the DPH, Ventresca favors making the coordinator for lesbian and gay health services a full-time position. It is currently part-time and vacant. "I will work to make communication between the DPH and LGBT and AIDS communities a key part of the decision-making process," he stated. "People affected by government decisions need to have a meaningful role in how those decisions are made."

To make the LGBT and AIDS communities more aware of available city services, Ventresca proposes an annual directory of government services be mailed to all households in San Francisco.

What is the one thing Ventresca wants the LGBT community to know about him? "With 15 years of distinguished government executive and administrative service and 25 years of unparalleled neighborhood and environmental leadership experience, I have the proven track record to build a top-performing, problem-solving team in the mayor's office and move our city forward."

Max Woods

Woods served for eight years as a voting member of the Republican State Central Committee and during that time, said he did every-



thing he could to maintain a party platform of individual rights, and non-discrimination that pertained not only to sexual orientation, but also to race and creed. Woods is now an independent.

To Woods, a mass transit engineer, scheduling is the key to improving Muni. He is opposed to Proposition E and stated: "No change is needed. The existing rules simply need to be enforced."

In terms of the lack of affordable housing in the city, Woods said approved construction permits should be for no larger than one-bedroom apartments, and that there should be a temporary moratorium on larger units. Regarding affordable housing for people living with HIV/AIDS, Woods suggests that the Presidio should be utilized for housing.

Regarding the Castro District and possible infiltration by more chain stores, Woods stated: "There are cities in the East that have ethnic groups that do business entirely within their own neighborhoods. If the residents of the Castro do indeed want to maintain what they have, they will do the same."

Woods agreed with other candidates that the DPH coordinator of lesbian and gay health services should be a full-time position.

What's the one thing Woods wants the LGBT community to know about him? "The door to my office will always be open." ▼

Clint Reilly

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homeless and housing policy. He proposes the city build thousands of new units of affordable housing, including large-scale addition to the stock of low-income and very-low-income housing units.

"Rents have been skyrocketing in San Francisco," Reilly stated. In the past three years, San Francisco has added 38,000 residents, but built only 3,000 housing units." He said that the housing crisis has resulted in 12,000 San Franciscans waiting for public housing, though there are only 6,000 units.

In terms of the housing crunch and how it affects people living with HIV/AIDS, Reilly said "... in the face of tremendous need, Mayor Brown let nearly \$50 million of available federal housing funds go unspent in 1996 and 1997; of that, \$9 million was for HIV/AIDS housing. "My housing plan will make full use of all available funds for the purpose they are intended," he added.

Neighborhood characterization has also emerged as a hot issue in the mayor's race, and in the Castro the debate has intensified in recent months over the possible addition of more chain stores to the area. Reilly said he has won the endorsement of many neighborhood leaders, largely because of his stance on gentrification and "the anti-neighborhood policies of Brown's City Hall."

Under his plan to stop "chain-store invasion," Reilly would: add a definition for "formula business" to the planning code; in-

crease public notification and input; and tighten existing zoning controls with density limits in neighborhood shopping districts.

Regarding the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the recent resignation of the coordinator of lesbian and gay health services, Reilly pledged to restore the position to full-time status. The position is presently vacant and split with other duties.

Reilly also said that in terms of getting the word out about available city services, he doesn't believe that today's Web technology is fully utilized "to reach out to a new generation of Internet-savvy LGBT youth and young adults."

"I would like to see the city's CitySpan website do a better job of highlighting the panoply of city services available to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities," Reilly stated.

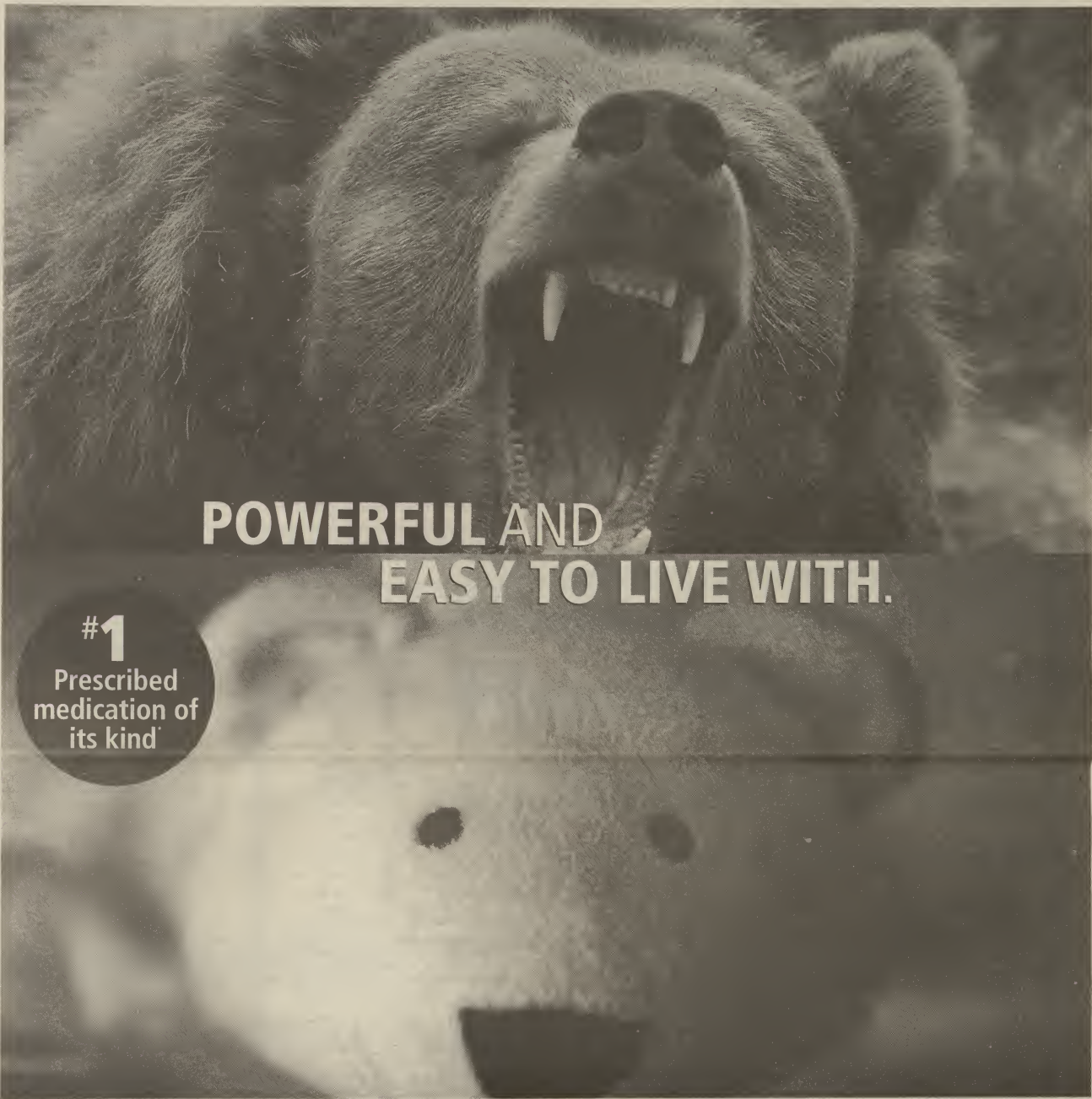
What does Reilly think the most important need is for San Francisco's LGBT community? "The LGBT community, like other communities struggling for civil rights, needs access to power and a way into the closed doors of power at City Hall. As evidenced by the Brown machine's vicious negative attack ads trying to smear me, San Francisco has a crying need for open, honest government. That's why I've endorsed Proposition G., the Sunshine initiative, and helped gather 5,000 signatures to put it on the ballot. Sunshine will enable all who stand outside the machine to balance its power, its attacks, its smears, and its longtime neglect of the legitimate needs of our communities. I hope to have your support in this battle." ▼

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- Thanks for speaking up and sharing your thoughts, experiences, and feelings!!
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- Data have been given to local public health officials and academic researchers to explore issues for gay/bisexual men of this city.
- Most of you agreed to let us keep in touch with you—further research is under way!
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- We're completing a short survey on tobacco use, and hope to do a full-scale interview next year—help us continue to make gay history!
- Check our website at:
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other organ systems.) **VIRACEPT IS EASY TO LIVE WITH** Take it three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks. **VIRACEPT IS GENERALLY WELL TOLERATED** People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea of moderate or greater intensity in 20% of people in

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clinical trials. **VIRACEPT WORKS** It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. Some common medications and some HIV related medications should not be taken with VIRACEPT. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, and with increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia. Ask your doctor. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.agouron.com.

(Refer to the important information on the next page.)


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Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept) Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zidovir® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events. Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate® This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")
- If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)
- Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit® (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddi)

If you are taking both Videx (ddi) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

- When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Viramune® (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs
- VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Norvir® (ritonavir)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

- Invirase® (saquinavir)
- The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.
† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 11/13/97

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The race for district attorney

compiled by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan is in a fight for his job as he campaigns for a second term in the November 2 election. Four challengers – including Deputy Public Defender Matt Gonzalez, who's running as a progressive alternative – are trying to unseat Hallinan, and all have criticized Hallinan's conviction rates and ability to manage the district attorney's office. Hallinan has fought back, lashing out at his challengers during a recent debate.

In addition to Gonzalez, others vying for the city's top law enforcement post are: Bill Fazio, who worked for 20 years in the district attorney's office as a prosecutor before going into private practice; Steve Castleman, another veteran prosecutor who used to work in the district attorney's office and won California's first criminal hazardous waste jury trial; and former San Diego City Councilman Mike Schaefer.

All of the candidates returned questionnaires from the *Bay Area Reporter* that asked several questions relating to issues of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. What follows is their responses.

The candidates were asked how they would improve service to LGBT victims of hate crimes or same-sex domestic violence.

Steve Castleman

A major problem in prosecuting LGBT hate crimes is gaining the confidence of the victims on two levels, either that they won't be subjected to embarrassment or that they won't be subjected to further violence as a result of their testimony. Therefore, I would assign LGBT investigators and deputy district attorneys full time to investigate and prosecute these crimes, making sure that they are well trained in and sensitive to the specific concerns of LGBT victims. I would ensure that victims deal with as few different people in my office as possible, ideally only one investigator and one prosecutor from beginning to end.

Bill Fazio

Hate crimes will not be tolerated. I have a detailed plan to upgrade victim services and victim safety regarding domestic violence and it will be applied equally to everyone. The Victim's Bill of Rights will be strictly enforced.

Matt Gonzalez

The incumbent district attorney is among those who promised to make domestic violence a priority and I agree with the stated objectives that I have heard from his office. However, the "domestic violence" court that he has instituted is hardly a model to be proud of. The court does not hear felony matters which make up the most serious of these offenses. I believe that same-sex domestic violence cases deserve the same attention that all other assault cases receive. Historically, these cases have been shunned because of society's reluctance to accept gay relationships. Hiring attorneys and victim advocates who are sensitive to these issues will help assure that same-sex domestic violence cases are not neglected.

As district attorney, I will require that all victims be notified of progress in every felony case,



Steve Castleman

Bill Fazio

Matt Gonzalez

Terence Hallinan

Mike Schaefer

specifically, that every victim be interviewed by an attorney before being called to testify and be told of the outcome of any case that is resolved before trial.

Terence Hallinan

I started the city's same-sex domestic violence program in 1996 and I currently employ a lesbian and a gay man who advocate for same-sex domestic violence victims, help them obtain restraining orders, create safety plans, access a broad range of ser-

vices, and build lives free from abuse. Every hate crime victim now also receives comprehensive victim services beginning within 24 hours of the crime.

I have been unyielding in my insistence that same-sex domestic violence be treated with the same commitment as every other domestic violence case. I launched a widespread public education campaign about same-sex domestic violence in 1996-97 to encourage victims to seek help and come forward. I have created a hate

crimes unit to vertically prosecute every hate crime case, felony and misdemeanor. The unit is staffed by a gay man and a lesbian attorney and LGBT investigators. I have assigned a lesbian victim advocate to work each week at Lyon-Martin Women's Clinic to reach out to the lesbian community on domestic violence issues.

Mike Schaefer

Have a deputy assigned specially, and would invite my friend Tim McVeigh (of the "Don't Ask, Don't

Tell" United States Navy case) to assist the office in investigation, consultation; would write a monthly column for the *B.A.R.* inviting input from the community.

The candidates were asked if they are aware of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), and if so, how they would work to strengthen relations with the agency.

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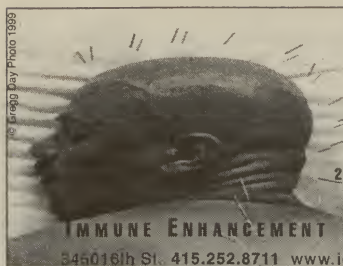
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(415) 476-9296, ext. 407

District attorney

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Castleman

I know that CUAV is partially funded by the district attorney's office and that it is a community resource that often is not utilized to its maximum potential in preventing violence, reporting incidents of violence, and advocating for victims. I will ask CUAV for advice on how to strengthen its effectiveness, rather than presuming that the district attorney's office has all the answers.

Fazio

I have worked extensively over the years with CUAV, specifically with Randy Schnell and Dianna Christenson, two of the founders of CUAV. I would continue working with CUAV and solicit input and membership on advisory boards from CUAV concerning office policies.

Gonzalez

I am aware of CUAV and support its mission. I would like the program to be expanded to address these issues and counseling needs of perpetrators of same-sex domestic violence, and not be an organization limited to representing the victims of such offenses. Currently, all people convicted of domestic violence are court-ordered to counseling, yet there is no program specifically oriented toward LGBT offenders. If we as a society expect the domestic violence counseling to be effective, it should be offered to the participants in a manner in which they feel safe and secure.

Hallinan

I am well aware of CUAV and

have worked closely with the organization for the last four years as district attorney. I worked with Supervisors Mark Leno and Tom Ammiano to secure additional funding for CUAV to create our battered gay men's shelter plus care program, the first such program in the nation. Three years ago, I launched a program with CUAV where my staff trains all police advanced officer and recruit classes on same-sex domestic violence and transgender sensitivity. Every October, I am proud to work with CUAV to draw local and national attention to the threat of domestic violence in the LGBT community. The work of the district attorney's office is greatly enhanced by the expertise and commitment of CUAV staff and we will continue to fight hand-in-hand to make sure that every member of the community is safe from violence, in their homes and on the street.

Schaefer

Apologize for being unaware, would attend its meetings personally and always have an open door by phone and in person with any officers or members seeking input or action from my office.

The candidates were asked how they would work with the state attorney general's office to implement voter-approved Proposition 215, and their philosophy on medical marijuana.

Castleman

I will work to establish clear guidelines under which marijuana can be cultivated and distributed for medical purposes, and I will oversee these activities to make sure they comply with the guidelines, not as an adversary, but as someone committed to their success. My main concern is the federal drug enforcement agencies, which need to be educated about the realities of medical marijuana. I will not cooperate with any of their efforts to identify and prosecute legitimate medical marijuana operations. I will not waste scarce law enforcement resources prosecuting minor and/or medical marijuana cases. However, I will crack down on any attendant crimes or violence or destruction of property that can be associated with the street sale of drugs. For people who have substance abuse problems as the root cause of criminal behavior, I will fight for greatly expanded treatment on demand opportunities.

Fazio

I would work with the attorney general, Department of Public

Health, and the police department to develop a way in which medical marijuana is distributed in a dignified manner. There would be no prosecution of medical marijuana under my administration. Minor cases of possession would be diverted where appropriate.

Gonzalez

I fully support medical marijuana and as district attorney, I would fight to preserve the growing number of medicinal marijuana treatment centers in the city. I view this issue as a medical issue, not as a political statement or a criminal matter. The incumbent states that he supports medical marijuana, yet he continues to prosecute individuals who use marijuana for medical reasons.

As district attorney, I will prioritize the prosecution of serious and violent crime. I support the decriminalization of marijuana. I will not file charges in marijuana cases involving the possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. I believe that marijuana seized by the police should be donated to medical marijuana dispensaries rather than burned or destroyed.

Hallinan

I was a leader in the statewide ballot fight to pass Proposition 215 and currently serve on Attorney General Bill Lockyer's task force on implementation of 215. This is a medical issue that requires a medical approach. I am proud to have been given an award this year by the national Drug Policy Foundation for my work on medicinal marijuana, my commitment to harm reduction, and my other efforts to treat drug addiction as the medical issue that it is. I am working now to establish a public dispensary for medicinal marijuana in San Francisco. Of course, I do not prosecute medical marijuana cases and non-medical, minor marijuana cases are one of my office's lowest priorities.

Schaefer

Would be no prosecution of medical marijuana cases, thus, no such cases would arise. Minor use or possession cases would be matters for counseling or diversion, but not criminalization.

The candidates were asked what they think is the most important need for San Francisco's LGBT community.

Castleman

San Francisco's LGBT community needs to feel secure in their homes, in the schools, and on the

page 29 ▶

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Oct. 22
8 pm

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Oct. 27
6:30 pm

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Oct. 29
8 pm

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ENDOSCOPIC & LASER TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

Proposition A to decide fate of Laguna Honda

by Terry Beswick

Of the 11 propositions on the November 2 ballot in San Francisco, only Proposition A, which would commit the city to rebuild the aging Laguna Honda Hospital, requires approval by two-thirds of the voters, because it entails an increase in property taxes to help pay for the \$299 million bond measure – the largest general obligation bond in city history.

Founded in 1866, the hospital's current facilities were constructed between 1926 and 1940, and provide long-term skilled nursing care for over 1,000 elderly and disabled patients.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) visited with some patients and supporters of Proposition A at a rally at the hospital last Saturday, October 16. Feinstein announced \$750,000 in new federal funds to help rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital, which will ease the need for funds if the bond measure passes.

Laguna Honda suffered significant damage in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake; replacement or repair of its fire safety, electrical, and other building systems are said to be long overdue.

Moreover, last year the federal government threatened to deny the city millions of dollars in funding unless the hospital was brought into compliance with federal regulations. The hospital's outdated large open wards, which

house up to 30 patients, were the chief violation cited.

If the city lost MediCal and Medicare funding, which pays for the vast majority of Laguna Honda's care for its mostly elderly patients, the hospital – including an AIDS ward, hospice, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and other services – would likely be forced to close.

The hospital's large main building would be replaced by 2006, if Proposition A passes, with 1,200 skilled nursing beds available in one-, two-, and four-person rooms. By 2009, 140 assisted living units would be built.

Revenues from San Francisco's share of tobacco litigation settlements are expected to help defray some \$200 million of the total 20-year debt service of \$529.5 million, including interest.

Property taxes would pay the remainder. Estimated by San Francisco Controller Ed Harrington at a maximum \$120.36 annual increase for owners of homes worth \$300,000, the increase would likely be less if the tobacco money and other funding are used.

Proponents of Proposition A argue that there is already a shortage of nursing beds in San Francisco. They point out that the population is aging, and that if the hospital closed, many of its elderly and disabled patients would fail at home, leading to expensive emergency room and acute care at San Francisco General Hospital and other facilities.

Opponents point to the project's huge price tag, and suggest that tobacco settlement money – expected to pour \$21 million a year into city's coffers – would be put to



Senator Dianne Feinstein visited with patients at Laguna Honda Hospital

better use by helping the disabled and elderly stay at home or in assisted living units, rather than in a large nursing home setting, which they call an outdated means for providing long-term care.

Kaufman, in the Voter Information Pamphlet, also contends

that the measure "allows two-thirds of San Francisco's residents who are renters to tax the remaining one-third who own property. Renters would pay nothing ... This property tax increase should be passed through retroactively to renters." ▼

The overlooked race for SF sheriff

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey is running for re-election on November 2, but since no one is challenging the popular sheriff, the race has garnered little attention. Hennessey, who has been sheriff since January 1980, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's looking forward to another four-year term.

The sheriff's office is responsi-

ble for running the county jails, providing security in the courts and at City Hall, and enforcing civil court orders, such as evictions. One of the better known civil court orders Hennessey had to enforce was the May 1998 closure of Dennis Peron's Cannabis Healing Center. Hennessey supports medical marijuana.

"I talked with Dennis Peron and he said he'd rather that I did it," Hennessey said of last year's forced closure. The alternative would have been to call in the

state.

Over the years, Hennessey has sought to bring progressive programs into the jails, and they have helped men and women change their lives, he said.

Hennessey has been responsible for hiring numerous lesbians and gays at the sheriff's department, in addition to more women and minority personnel. "I have a higher percentage of women and gay and lesbian officers than any law enforcement officer in America," Hennessey told the *B.A.R.* ▼



Sheriff Michael Hennessey

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Tom Ammiano

◀ page 1

community activist, as Ammiano's campaign managers.

Haaland said that since Ammiano's announcement, the phone has been "ringing off the hook" with people asking how to volunteer and where to donate. The grassroots campaign has already opened their headquarters in a Castro neighborhood cabaret, started a website (ammiano4mayor.com), and plans to distribute over 100,000 door-hangers, fliers, and signs at a rally this Saturday, October 23, at Josie's Juice Joint at noon.

Ammiano, elected last year to president of the Board of Supervisors with over 129,000 votes citywide, said he doesn't really expect to win. But that doesn't slow down the ebullient Haaland.

"From my perspective, I'm going to do everything I can to get him into the runoff," he said. "I think he's more popular than Clint and Frank, and all we have to do is teach people how to write him in."

Ammiano spoke to the *Bay Area Reporter* on Sunday, October 17, following a speech to the congregation at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco.

B.A.R.: Why are you running?

Ammiano: The overwhelming feedback I've got is that people are totally disillusioned by the candidates for mayor, and it went in August from feeling disenchanted 'til in October, feeling despair. And the forecast of one of the lowest voter turnouts, and my desire to have certain ballot measures win, which would require a

liberal, good-government kind of turn-out: ATM, the Sunshine initiative, particularly Laguna Honda, and also the Octavia boulevard issue.

And I thought that this would give people some hope in terms of the mayor's race, but also get them to turn out on November 2 and at least vote for those ballot measures.

Well, that's one reason to want to run, without spending the money...

This is obviously an alternative campaign, and when you talk about a write-in without raising any money, and a lot of campaigning, you're also talking about a populist issue and a grassroots issue, and this has certainly struck a nerve. The response has been overwhelming and extremely positive, so I think at minimum we're going to get that increased voter turnout, which would make me very happy.

Don't you think you would get more excitement if you were actually stating that you were in this to win?

I think that in August, when the deadline happened, there was that feeling of jumping in. But I looked at the money that needed to be spent, and also the negativity which has been borne out, and made a personal decision that I would put my shoulder to the wheel in the future. Winning is very appealing to me, but as someone said, "We all celebrate Christmas, but that doesn't necessarily mean that we believe in Santa Claus."

It's a long shot. The win is a long shot, and it would be something that we would deal with and



San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano

would work really hard to achieve if in fact there was a runoff, for instance. In the meantime, this is better than just sitting back and not giving people any hope at all around those ballot measures, and around the mayor's race.

Some of the "second-tier" mayoral candidates try to put on a very happy face about their chances of winning.

I campaigned for many years – since 1980 when I first ran for school board – and you always hold out that hope. One of the things I've learned, through not only the gay movement but other civil rights movements, is that sometimes the winning is in the addressing of the issue, and the winning is about being involved. For instance, I lost three times be-

fore I got elected to the Board of Education. But every time I ran, it established a beachhead.

You had decided in August that you would run next time for mayor.

Exactly, but what happened in the past two or three months has been this increased feeling of just despair, and "I'm not going to vote," and "Gee, there's really nobody on that ballot that really addresses all the issues that I'm concerned about." And it's not just gay and liberal people, it's people who believe in finance reform which I do; it's people who believe in neighborhood issues as I do.

Are there new concerns that have come up since August about the other major mayoral candidates, about their positions on the issues?

They haven't talked about living wage, none of them have talked about campaign finance reform. I put forth a public finance piece of legislation the other week – none of them have talked about that. None of them have really talked about the fact that if Proposition E passes in terms of the Muni – and by the way, none of the top three take the Muni – the mayor would get to appoint a set of people to the new Muni independent authority, and who would they be? So there has been a lot of character questions, but there has been a deficit of issue questions, so I think that's what people are feeling.

You're characterized as being the farthest of the far left among the major politicians in town, and now you're running for mayor.

Labels are interesting. Obviously, to be fair to everyone, I do fit into a progressive mode. But on issues I've put on the ballot, like campaign reform, and district elections, and oversight of police, 70 percent of the people voted for them, and they come from all political stripes. So one of the things I think that's being addressed in this write-in candidacy is the people who might not necessarily be

identified as liberal but want an honest government, and a clean government, and ethics involved in government, and I think that people feel that I represent that.

Given that Brown is the incumbent and the favored to win, do you feel that he is strictly principled in making his decisions?

I think there's a little too much cronyism. He has been a disappointment to me on campaign reform. You know I wanted sunshine on the nonprofits so we could see where our tax dollars go, particularly in terms of AIDS – he was very, very wishy-washy on that. He hasn't really said a lot about the freeway issue. There are some things I would give him a salute for: his years of service in and around civil rights issues. But in terms of true reform and more or less reshaping the political scene, I think he has been weak on that.

And Reilly and Jordan?

Jordan was proven to be very conservative on many issues that many people care about. And cronyism, and appointing people who are not necessarily competent and reflective of neighborhoods' needs. And Reilly has no record at all in terms of being in office. I think some of his history is subject to conjecture and criticism, particularly the consultant history which basically is all wrapped up in money.

What are the chances that you might make it into the runoff?

I think it's an extremely long shot. But San Francisco is an odd and wonderful town, and maybe it could happen, and we're ready.

And your campaign people right now – they pretty much came forward on their own?

They're on fire, yeah! They've really been great sustenance for me. They've been saying, "We knew this could happen, we're so relieved that you're doing this." It's been very gratifying that way, so I think we did hit a nerve, and what the outcome is going to be on November 2, I don't know, but I can't help but think it's going to be positive. Whether it's a runoff or not, I still know that the increase in the voting populace is going to be definitely up from what it might have been if I hadn't done the write-in.

You're not concerned about your future relations with the elected mayor, should you not be elected?

Well, you know they haven't been great anyway. I mean he's pretty much thwarted a lot of issues that I wanted to move forward fast, like the living wage issue for instance, and the live-work issue. So it'll probably be same-old, same-old. Though I have to say for him and for me: we're both very civil, we're both very professional, and for me particularly, the business of the city is very important.

So I'll always have a meeting; my door is always open. ▼



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Jim Reid

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But the most important need for the LGBT community, said Reid, is to focus on both the young and the old. If elected, he said he would ensure that San Francisco's youth get good sex education and the city's seniors get the dignity they deserve. He would also do everything in his power to "neutralize LGBT stereotypes."

"I will speak out locally and nationally to defeat homophobia," he said. "I will live an open life as a gay man but keep my sexuality in the bedroom where it belongs. When I am elected this fall or in four years, I will be San Francisco's first gay mayor. I will take on this position with great sensitivity and respect for my community and myself."

Until then, you can probably find Reid aboard Muni, as his next 48-hour ride is scheduled just before Election Day. ▼

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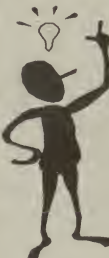
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Gay man runs for Mill Valley City Council

by Lois Pearlman

Saying it's the kind of thing that gay activists do when they settle down and move to the suburbs, Mill Valley resident Robert Harmon is making his second bid for a seat on the Mill Valley City Council in the November 2 election.

"Gay issues are what got me started in politics," said Harmon, who lobbied Congress against President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for gays serving in the U.S. military. "This is what happens when you meet someone and settle down in suburban areas with the proverbial white picket fence. You become interested in typical suburban issues."

A former Army reservist who is establishing a new career as a publicity consultant, Harmon has lived in Mill Valley for 16 years with his partner, Robert Larsen.

Over the years Harmon has become involved in a variety of local issues, and placed fourth in a contest for two open city council seats in 1997. In 1992 and 1993 he crafted Marin County's domestic partners policy and successfully advocated for its passage.

But Harmon said his political involvement has gone way beyond his original commitment to



Mill Valley resident Bob Harmon

gay rights. Currently he is a member of the Marin County Democratic Central Committee and the Adult Criminal Justice Commission, vice chairman of the county's Affirmative Action Advisory Council, chairman of

the local American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) board of directors and an appointee to the Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee.

One of seven hopefuls vying for three open seats on the Mill Valley City Council, Harmon said the slate divides up generally between pro-development candidates and slow growth proponents. He places himself in the latter category.

He said the main issues for the city of Mill Valley, a town of 14,000 residents in southern Marin County, are traffic congestion and development.

Situated in a box canyon at the foot of Mt. Tamalpais, the city is already built out to its maximum capacity, according to Harmon, but developers are buying up lots with older cottages and bungalows and building large new houses on them. There is also new construction on the surrounding slopes, which were originally thought to be inappropriate sites for development.

As a candidate who advocates a careful approach to development, and civil rights protections for all, Harmon finds his support among environmentalists, civil liberties activists, and people who promote bicycle access to local roads.

He has established a website to promote his campaign at www.robertharmon.com.

First gay Internet bank open for business

by Liz Highleyman

There's more than one way to come out, and on National Coming Out Day, the G&L Bank opened for business on the Internet. The bank claims to be the first national full-service financial institution specifically aimed at the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

The G&L Bank, based in Pensacola, Florida, offers checking accounts, certificates of deposit, consumer and small business loans, and home mortgages; services are guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). It officially opened October 11.

According to the bank's founder, Steven Dunlap, "All too often, gay men and lesbians face discrimination in banking services. We are using our firsthand knowledge of this discrimination to build a bank that will treat all people equally." Dunlap began developing plans for the bank in 1993, after he was refused a loan to develop a gay resort.

Demographic surveys suggest that the approximately 21 million gays and lesbians in the U.S. are responsible for an estimated \$800 billion in spending. An estimated 9.2 million gays and lesbians currently use the Internet, a number that is expected to nearly double within the next decade. According

to Dunlap, "The anonymity, freedom, and openness of the Internet has created a national gay and lesbian community never before possible."

Traditional financial institutions often do not understand the needs of gay and lesbian customers, particularly when it comes to providing services that accommodate same-sex couples. For example, most banks do not allow unmarried couples to use their combined income to qualify for loans. According to G&L Chief Executive Officer Kay Griffith, "Many banks still think a couple needs to have a marriage certificate to show that they are credit-worthy."

The G&L Bank will invest in the queer community by providing loans to gay and lesbian individuals and business, and by donating to community-based programs, including those that provide financial and practical assistance to people living with AIDS. In addition, the bank has pledged to do business only with vendors that have non-discrimination and equal opportunity policies in place for their employees.

Because the Internet-based bank does not have the overhead costs associated with a physical infrastructure, it claims to be able to offer interest rates that are equal to or better than those of local banks around the nation. G&L Bank currently has 35 employees. Customers can access the

bank's services via personal computer, telephone, or one of 485,000 ATM machines across the country; services will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and transactions will be protected by encryption and firewalls. "Every time we get a new customer, we've just opened a new branch," said Dunlap. "Why would you ever again get into your car, drive down to the bank, and wait in line for some grumpy teller, when you can do it all over the Internet at one o'clock in the morning?"

Although the bank is aimed at a gay and lesbian clientele, it welcomes customers of any sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, gender identity, or HIV status. The bank's mission statement says that its goal is to "create a respectful, comfortable, discrimination-free bank for all our customers that will bolster the growth and prosperity of our communities, gay and non-gay alike." Said Dunlap, "Banks are extremely conservative and they often associate gay issues and gay enterprises with an illogical level of fear and risk. Where traditional institutions see risk and controversy, we see an untapped customer base that values acceptance, comfort, and trust."

For more information or to inquire about services, see the website at www.glbk.com or call 888-BANK-GAY.

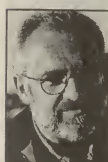
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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Philip A. Partipilo



Philip Partipilo, 52, died suddenly of a heart attack on September 21, 1999 while traveling in Ireland with a friend.

Philip moved to San Francisco from Chicago in 1982. He worked for Bank of America and most recently State Fund in San Francisco. Philip was fluent in French and Italian and loved to travel. He was an active participant for several years in the Art Deco Society and au-

thored articles for their newsletter, *The Sophisticate*. He was a volunteer docent for many years at the Hass-Lilienthal House and also edited *Bay Window*, the docent newsletter. He was a volunteer at the Stop AIDS Project, and was a facilitator for caregiver groups at Kairos/Shanti.

Philip is survived by his brother, Michael, of Chicago and by many, many friends in San Francisco, Chicago, France and Italy. He will always be remembered for his love of books, opera and architecture. Philip loved connecting with people and was always making friends. He enriched our lives with his knowledge and animated presence. All who knew him were blessed and he will be missed.

Philip was buried in Chicago on September 29. A memorial mass will be held on Saturday, October 23, at 1 p.m., at Notre Dame des Victoires church at 566 Bush St., San Francisco.

William E. (Bill) Tolson

1937 - 1989



Bill Tolson passed away on October 24, 1989, exactly one week after the Loma Prieta earthquake, having waged a valiant, two-year struggle with AIDS. Bill is an overwhelming soul, who was a

"larger than life" figure during his lifetime. His family and many friends were devastated at his death. His memory remains as strong as he was during his life, and this recognition of him in our community is long overdue.

Bill was born in Philadelphia on January 15, 1937 and grew up in Germantown and New York City. He came to San Francisco in 1965, where he immediately became very popular. His personality, sexuality, and tall, dark and handsome features magnetized people.

His love of music, particularly gospel, classical and soul music, helped define him with their statement. When he would go out, he liked to leave the classical music station playing on the radio to greet him upon his return. On

Sunday mornings, he loved to wake up and greet the day by playing his gospel records at full volume, stating, "They won't say anything about this, because I'm having my Sunday service."

His love of people and their mutual admiration for him was unparalleled. During his life, Bill had a talent for meeting people and making friends. He was a "man's man" who elicited respect from everyone, everywhere he went. All of us who knew him still miss him very much. We can take comfort in knowing that Bill's soul is out there, mixing with his fellow souls, and waiting for the opportunity to once again mix with ours when the time comes for us to join him.

A beverage benefit will be held for Bill on Saturday, October 23, from 3 p.m. till 7 p.m. at the Eagle Tavern, with the proceeds going in Bill's name to the Black Coalition on AIDS.

William W. Weaver

William W. Weaver, also known as Mr. Bill, Uncle Bill, and many other affectionate nicknames, died Thursday, October 7, 1999 from liver complications at Frank Sinatra Medical Center in Palm Springs, after moving there the week before from San Francisco.

Bill was born in Pacifica, California in 1948, "on the same day as Barbra Streisand," he used to say.

Bill was a well-known figure in the Bear community, the Lone Star, and the Chubby and Chasers community for over the last 20 years or so. He in fact was Mr. Chubby San Francisco 1992. He was very supportive of many AIDS charities and other organizations during his lifetime. He also helped form many Club clubs in the Bay Area.

Bill was very active in MCC Sacramento and MCC San Francisco with his partner David, who preceded him in death seven years ago.

Bill was a talented piano player with a voice to match. We will miss your "large appetite for life" personality.

Sunday, October 24 will be dedicated to Bill at the Lone Star. A memorial service will be held for Bill on Saturday, November 13, 11 a.m., at Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco. Donations in his memory may be made to MCC, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



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District attorney

◀ page 24

streets of our city. The LGBT community must feel confident that the police and the district attorney's office understand the full range of abuses the LGBT community endures, and that LGBT San Franciscans are treated with understanding, dignity, and respect whenever they encounter law enforcement. Of special concern is the large number of gay men in frail health who often are preyed upon not only by violent criminals, but also by con artists, white collar criminals, and unscrupulous landlords. LGBT merchants who so often are on the front lines of turning faded, run-down neighborhoods into thriving commercial areas require and deserve the active support of law enforcement to protect their hard work.

Fazio

Total equality.

Gonzalez

I personally feel that the most important "needs" of the LGBT community deal with basic civil rights, and the continuing battle against discrimination. An important need for the LGBT community is to achieve equal standing in all aspects of civil rights with the heterosexual community. For example, recognition of gay marriage and child custodial rights for gay parents.

Hallinan

Of course, the struggle to end AIDS must remain a top priority for all of us. Ensuring safety for every lesbian, gay man, bisexual, and transgender/transsexual is my top priority as district attorney - safety in the home and safety on the street. We have come a long way toward that goal in the last four years and I firmly believe that, together, in the next four years, we will make every San Francisco street and home a safe haven for all of us.

Schaefer

Immediate need: defeat Knight initiative. Future need: emphasize the positive influence the LGBT community has had on community values - both real estate and the arts, and the dignity of its members. ▼

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CHANGES
A UCSF Research Project

Happy fun ball

by Jim Provenzano

Gay men's basketball just got more room. Expanding on Sundays, "We can now accommodate new players," said the sport's most active Bay Area proponent, Tony Jasinski, whose league was so popular they'd been turning players away.

"Almost every Sunday of the year (except Halloween Sunday), we're at Eureka Valley Gym," he said. "It's open court play, with teams thrown together with an eye towards balance. Athletes just need to show up."

With their fall league under way, most Thursday nights through the first half of December will find Eureka Valley's gym echoing with the sound of squeaky gym shoes and dribbling balls on the recently refurbished floors. Stop by and cheer the players. Talk about a cheap — yet fun — date.

Future plans for the courtly crew include the first-ever San Diego tournament in January on Martin Luther King weekend. "We'll also field a team to Chicago on St. Patrick's weekend," Jasinski said. Beware the green Gatorade.

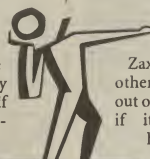
Upcoming goals include an international tournament for GLBTQ Pride Week 2000. Jasinski hopes to invite a European team in what may be the biggest tournament in gay basketball history outside of Gay Games. Tentative

dates are June 22 and 23, with a championship at Eureka Valley Gym on Saturday afternoon.

In the meantime, get courtly at 100 Collingwood Street at 18th, in the Castro, on Sundays. Novice players play from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and strong players play from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Fall league plays most Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. More info: (415) 621-2710 or www.gay-basketball.com.

Health-a-poppin'

Judging by the current crop of pharmaceutically-enhanced in-



Sports Complex

formercials, TV can make you sick. To stop sneezing, pop a Zaxinol, Blubine, or any other capsule with a name out of a Dr. Seuss book, even if it induces baldness, headache, nausea, diarrhea, dizziness, drowsiness, sleeplessness, and these are just the side effects!

Here's a weird one: "May induce gas with oily discharge." Oily discharge?

I'm sorry, but prime time commercials advertising genital herpes remedies between episodes of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, are just too ironic to stomach. I'd be happy to let them broadcast some more homoerotic Western ranch cigarette ads (instead of those treacherous Philip Morris gives water to disaster victims self-aggrandizing spots), provided they include a blinking CAUSE CANCER subcaption, if only the drug companies would just STOP!

"It's about suppression." Say what?

How many befuddled parents each night are being forced to explain anal warts to their toddlers? What next? "Aldoux Huxley's Soma, available in six-packs!" When I visit someone's home, I never peek in the bathroom cabinet. I don't want to know about your colon, thanks. They have private clubs for that sort of thing.

Health class

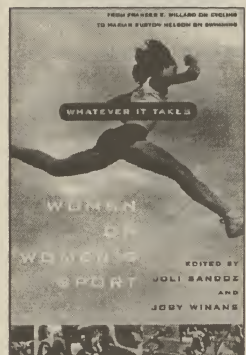
Until the day when we have commercials free of grotesque gastrointestinal graphics, enjoy some more realistically target-marketed health information with *The Gay Men's Wellness Guide*.

Published by Owl Books, this comprehensive tome includes everything from HIV info to the needs of transperson sex workers, oral sex techniques (with diagrams!) to aging and self-image issues.

At almost 600 pages, this big book never gets lost in technical language — or oily discharge — but instead provides essays, personal accounts, charts, and references on a wide array of health topics that contextualize the history of

gay rights and how progress — and homophobia — hurts and heals our bodies.

Edited by the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center's Robert E. Penn, (who's currently busy on another big project — a film documenting the LGBT African American community), *The Gay Men's Wellness Guide* was a years-long project of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association, and was well worth the effort. Stay healthy by being informed.

**Whatever will be, will be**

Another very different, yet very healthy book, full of diverse viewpoints and touching stories, is *Whatever It Takes: Women of Women's Sport* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$13) edited by teacher Joli Sandoz and trainer Joby Winans, both of Washington state. Sandoz also edited *A Whole Other Ball Game: Women's Literature on Women's Sport*, another terrific anthology that covers a wide array of athletic endeavors by women.

With dozens of short, smart and touching essays, stories, and memoirs by known authors like Annie Dillard, Jewelle Gomez, Pat Griffin, Alisa Solomon, and Mari-ah Burton Nelson, the anthology also includes the passionate insight of Gay Games participants like April Martin (whose figure skating efforts at GGIV were made into a touching documentary) and the Bay Area's own Golden Gate wrestler, Helen Vozenilek (who wore her singlet at the recent *A Different Light* reading!).

Some historical essays put a profound perspective on the portrayal of women in sports journalism, and the struggle of women's rights is reflected in essays from the past through recent advances. From Solomon's essay taking on the exclusionary representation of women in media, to some deft poetry that captures synaptic moments of athletic bliss, this diverse collection, while not overtly Sapphic, is a must-read for any women who sweat, and any reader who admires those who do. ▼

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Fired professor

◀ page 5

he suggested that if the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization, adopted the position that the federal Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA) should be amended to protect gay and lesbian employees of religiously affiliated institutions, this would lead him to end the fast.

HRC did not return a call from the B.A.R. seeking comment.

"The first three days were the hardest," Van Vugt, 45, said on October 15, speaking from a park

pay phone of his water-only diet. "I feel heartened by the neighbors. People bring their kids by because they say they want them to see activism at work."

"At the same time there's all these beautiful gay boys lying here, but usually it's the straight people who come up and give me support." ▼

For further information about the fast, see <http://siteblazer.net/fastforequalrights>. Donations can be sent to the "Van Vugt Legal Fund" at P.O. Box 420462, San Francisco, CA 94142-0462.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gays and allies to meet with Rev. Falwell

by Katie Szymanski

Exchanging rhetoric and continuing to use the word "hate" upon deaf ears has n't brought us too far. But the Reverend Mel White and others – including seven Bay Area residents – are trying to change that. A group of 200 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) people of faith and their allies – a group known as Soulforce – will break bread with the Reverend Jerry Falwell in Lynchburg, Virginia this Saturday, October 23, to discuss how to tone down rhetoric and sweeping statements on both sides, in

order to stop the violence against each other's communities.

The meeting – a long time in the making – has its opponents from both sides. Many gay activists believe that by paying Falwell attention, his reputation will be validated. Many Christians, of course, also oppose the meeting.

But for the Bay Area participants, the meeting represents an opportunity to have open dialogue with a man who refuses to see them as partners in his own faith.

"Most gay members of my church have been victims of gay-bashing," said heterosexual minister Doug Donley of the Dolores Street Baptist Church, who said

he is going to Lynchburg because he is convinced that hate speech encourages violence.

"I want to break down the tendencies we all have to demonize those who think differently from us," said Oakland lesbian Kara Speltz, who will attend the gathering to "transform" certain people's viewpoints.

"Part of what I hope to convey is that being gay and being spiritual is not a contradiction in terms," said Christian de la Huer-ta, author of *Coming Out Spiritually* and founder of Q-Spirit.

After the meeting, the LGBT Christians will worship with Falwell's congregation on Sunday.

Well-known homophobe the

Reverend Fred Phelps plans to picket the event, which will only help Falwell distance himself from those "crazies" that are so "unlike" himself and his message of "love."

Before meeting with Falwell, Soulforce will hold a candlelight vigil through Lynchburg in honor of hate crimes victims, clean up trash around Lynchburg in areas that their host families have adopted, and make a \$20,000 donation to Lynchburg's Habitat for Humanity and a \$1,000 donation to Lynchburg food banks. The event wraps up with Soulforce taking Falwell's congregation to lunch at area restaurants. ▼



Reverend Jerry Falwell

Willie Brown

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world class transit system it deserves. Each day we get a little closer to that goal."

In April, Brown hired a new Muni manager who has extended rush hour service by an hour on the 38-Express line and ridged the system of "missouts" (the controversial practice that allowed Muni drivers to miss work without calling in). He pointed out that the *San Francisco Chronicle* recently upgraded Muni's overall grade to a "B," and noted that his administration is replacing 70 percent of Muni's 900 vehicles.

As for the housing crisis, Brown said he has developed over 5,000 units of affordable housing and improved existing public housing so much that San Francisco earned the federal govern-

ment's "most improved" recognition. Housing for people with AIDS, Brown concedes, is still a problem, but it does receive attention from his administration.

"At 422 Valencia, eight out of 82 units are set aside for people with HIV/AIDS," said Brown. "At Glide Housing, 13 out of 52 units are set aside for families where the head of household has HIV/AIDS."

Additionally, Brown established a rent subsidy program, administered by the AIDS organization Positive Resources, to supplement PWAs already in housing.

With the lowest vacancy rate in the country, San Francisco has much work to do to accommodate everyone, but Brown stated that he would work with residents to preserve and develop neighborhoods in accordance with their wishes.

Syphilis

◀ page 12

treatment after 1-2 months; the initial sores may be followed by a rash. Some people have no noticeable symptoms. The disease can be successfully treated with a single dose of penicillin, but if untreated the bacteria remains latent in the body and may lead to long-term consequences including brain and heart damage, dementia, and death. Syphilis can be transmitted from a mother to her child before or during birth, often resulting in infant death. Studies have shown that the presence of syphilis can increase the risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV.

Despite the decrease in rates both nationally and locally, the number of syphilis cases remains comparatively high among some sectors of the population and in certain geographical areas. Nationwide, African Americans are

34 times more likely to have syphilis compared to whites, with a rate of 17 cases per 100,000 people. According to the CDC's Dr. Helene Gayle, "Syphilis remains one of the most glaring examples of racial inequities in health status facing this nation." In San Francisco, blacks are five times more likely than whites to be infected, although last year's decrease in syphilis cases was consistent across gender, racial, and age categories.

According to the CDC, less than 1 percent of all counties in the U.S. accounted for about half of the syphilis cases reported in 1998. The 1 percent consists of 28 counties, mainly in the South and encompassing large cities. Areas where syphilis is especially prevalent include Baltimore, Chicago, Nashville, Atlanta, and Dallas. San Francisco's early syphilis rate is higher than the national average and the average for the state as a whole. ▼

Leslie Katz

◀ page 3

which coincides with defamatory and erroneous campaigns against gays and lesbians."

The resolution also suggests a connection to anti-gay murders, but did not specifically mention Shepard. However, the cover letter from the board's clerk did, stating that Shepard's brutal killing was "in part due to the message being espoused to your groups that gays and lesbians are not worthy of the most basic equal rights and treatment." The letter also was addressed to Senators Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina and Trent Lott

(R-Mississippi), as well as then-Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia).

Resolutions are traditional instruments for expressing views on a wide variety of topics on the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco. They are not signed by the mayor, and are not legally binding for private media outlets, that may or may not be influenced by the board's pronouncements.

"We didn't do anything officially that would block them," said Katz. "Public figures can denounce speech."

"For some, it is politically advantageous, if not intellectually dishonest, to squelch free speech," said Crampton. ▼

"There are strong differences about the dynamics that create neighborhood character," said Brown, referring to the gentrification of the Castro, which most recently saw the opening of the ever-controversial Starbucks coffeehouse.

"The bottom line is, San Franciscans speak with their wallets. By not patronizing Boston Markets in the Castro and two other neighborhoods, you have spoken and those stores have closed."

Brown said he worked with the owners of the restaurant Johnfrank, which replaces a Boston

Market, to ensure they could secure the necessary permits to open.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our city," he said.

It is a comment that some see as inconsistent with his "pro-development" politics, but Brown emphasized that there is more to him than people think they may know.

"The image of Willie Brown as arrogant and indifferent to the details of this city is far from the truth," said Brown. "For over three years, I have conducted monthly Open Door days, whereby more

than a thousand San Franciscans have personally talked with me about their problems or concerns."

Brown said his commitment to LGBT people will continue to set a national example, with accessible healthcare being his number one priority for the community, a goal he hopes to reach by pooling uninsured people together with insured city employees.

"I have always been there on the front-line working for the community's agenda," said Brown. "I will continue to be there." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATMENT FILE NO. 235499

The following person(s) are doing business as, Mister M. Production, 720 York Street, #225, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mikhailov, Alexander D. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/12/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/13/99.

OCT. 21, 28, NOV. 4, 11 1999

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT

OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: 191476

The following person(s) Igor Stolper have abandoned the use of the use of the fictitious business name known as: Advance Auto Repair. Located at: 2435 - 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/18/99. This business was conducted by: a general partnership signed: Igor Stolper and Leonid Shapiro. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on date indicated by file stamp above. October 18, 1999.

OCT. 21, 28 1999

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is: Elizas Restaurant Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1457 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. For the following type of License: 41-On-Sale Beer and Wine- Eating Place OCT. 21, 1999

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 235512
The following person(s) are doing business as, John Block Photography, 2845 Golden Gate Avenue #10 San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John L. Block. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/14/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/14/99.

OCT. 21, 28, NOV. 4, 11 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 235583
The following person(s) are doing business as, Advance Auto Repair, 2435 - 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Igor Stolper. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/01/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/18/99.

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LEGAL
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STATMENT FILE NO.235102

The following person(s) are doing business
as, T3 Webhosting, 1714 28th Avenue,
San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed
Jonathan Wei Wen. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 9/27/99. The statement was filed
with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on 09/27/99.
OCT.7,14,21,28, NOV.99

STATMENT FILE NO.235196

The following person(s) are doing business
as, APronstyle.Com Inc. 388 Townsend
Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This
business is conducted by a corporation,
signed Mary Kay Fletcher. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 8/25/99. The statement was filed

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LEGAL NOTICES

with the County Clerk of the City and
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OCT.14,21,28, NOV.4, 1999

STATMENT FILE NO.235269

The following person(s) are doing business
as, Alexander's Hair Enterprises, 2337
Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110.
This business is conducted by an individual,
signed Lidia Aragon. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
10/04/99. The statement was filed with the
County Clerk of the City and County of San
Francisco, CA on 10/04/99.
OCT.14,21,28, NOV.4, 1999

STATMENT FILE NO.235344

The following person(s) are doing business
as, Vickie Hair And Nail Care, 3224 22nd
Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This
business is conducted by an individual,
signed Truong Sam Tran. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 10/06/99. The statement was
filed with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on 10/06/99.
OCT.14,21,28, NOV.4, 1999

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO: FILE NO: 304158

In the Matter of the Application of Sheri
Lee Mueller For Change of Name. The ap-
plication of Sheri Lee Mueller for change
of name, having been filed in court, and it

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Boy interrupted

Brandon Teena's tragic life in 'Boys Don't Cry.'

pages 42-43



'Hard' times

Low-budget, high-sizzle thriller finally opens in SF.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 42 • 21 October 1999



Talkin' about my girl

Patricia Barber brings 'Modern Cool' to SF Jazz Fest

by Tim Pfaff

It so happens that the principal attraction for my folk at this year's San Francisco Jazz Festival, which got underway this week, takes place on Halloween weekend — though ostensibly before the late-night revelries. At 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon, October 30 — the crack of dawn as far as she's concerned — Patricia Barber and her quartet will play the Florence Gould Theatre at the Palace of Legion of Honor. The program is called "Modern Cool," the title of the lesbian singer-pianist's first CD (though another, *Complicité*, hit hit stores), but Barber says, gently but firmly, "I'll play whatever I feel like at this moment. It depends on what's interesting me."

That could include standards, but, as Barber's five CDs to date make clear, they're no longer soundbites once she runs them over the keys and wrings her voice around them. In a shockingly short time, Barber has established herself as one of the most distinctive voices — in the literal as well as the stylistic senses — in today's jazz scene. When she gets ahold of a song, it knows it's been gotten hold of — and that, before she's done with it, it's likely to visit places it hasn't been before. How many singers have the nerve to sing "Summertime" any more, I'll never know. But Barber, who opens her second CD, *The Diversions of Love*, with it, makes it her own from the first note. I haven't been this convinced by a nonclassical singer since my adolescent obsession with Barbra Streisand, and I'm a lot less ashamed of this one.

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Motown divas rule

'Dreamgirls' surprises in Concord

by Richard Dodds

It was an unsettling start. Richard Elliott, artistic director of Willows Theater in Concord, began talking to the audience before the curtain went up on his production of *Dreamgirls*. Ten minutes later, he was still talking — and explaining and cajoling.

Elliott must have been concerned how his matinee regulars would take to a musical that broke stylistic boundaries back in 1981 and featured a predominantly black cast in a show that wasn't just another happy-feet revue. But the audience, which had murmured appreciatively at the mention of the holiday production of *Nuncrackers*, was clearly hooked by this musical drama about the rise of the Motown sound.

That Motown was unlikely the music of choice for most of the members of this audience didn't really matter, thanks to the strong material, resourceful staging, and a collection of remarkable performances.

The original production was famous for Michael Bennett's black cinematic direction and Eliahu Katz's anachronistic use of projections to create a world of color and the eye-catching costumes and choreography.

mutations. More impressive are the performances he has extracted from the large, talented cast. One minus is the pre-recorded music that inevitably saps some of the vitality from the proceedings.

Tom Eyer's book and lyrics and Henry Krieger's music tell the story of a group not unlike the Supremes, from its beginning in talent shows to its superstar status. The drama comes in the backstabbing machinations of the music industry, which also have romantic fallout for the principals. The sunny ending is the only element of the musical that strains credibility.

In the original production, Jennifer Holiday became an instant Broadway legend when she brought down the first-act curtain with the wailing "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." At Willows, Annette D. Noble captures a similar raw intensity. It's the kind of go-for-broke performance that can give you chills.

Noble plays Effie White, a member of a rising trio called the Dreamts, who is at first supplanted as lead singer by a more glamorous member, and then expelled entirely from the group for her fiery personality.



Cherelle Fortier, Annette Noble, and Kalene Parker in *Dreamgirls*.

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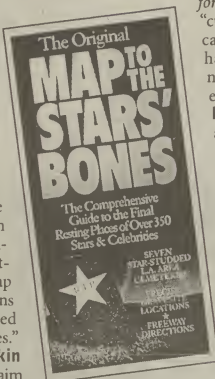
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by Roberto Friedman
and Libby Doe

Out There can't help it if it has a dirty mind, but when a copy of *The Original Map to the Stars' Bones* arrived, we thought it might be yet another survey of celebrity erections. Then we noticed it was the product of a group called Grave Concerns Ltd., and we woke up to the grim reality: what we really had in our hot little hands was a map of gravesite locations in seven "star-studded LA area cemeteries." Partners **Steve Okin** and **Bob Dorian** claim they personally verified every final resting place, and we gotta admit the list is exhaustive. Now if we ever want to



know where **Liberace** or **Morey Amsterdam** are, we know for sure where to find them (in Forest Lawn, of course). We're not sure we really need to know that actor

Noah Berry (*The Rockford Files*) is parked "curbside, by 2nd trash-can," but on the other hand it is somehow nice to know that comedy giants **Buster Keaton**, **Stan Laurel**, and **Marty Feldman** are in the same neighborhood for eternity.

And where else but in Time Immemorial could actress **Eva Gabor**, capitalist **Armand Hammer**, and author/bitch queen **Truman Capote** be at the same party? Thing is, they're having worm cocktails six foot under the verdant lawns of Westwood Memorial Park.

Question pornography

On the other hand, having a dirty mind is definitely an asset for enjoying playwright **Ronnie Larsen's** porn star vehicle *All-Male Peep Show* at the Victoria Theatre. We enjoyed ourselves senseless, but three nagging questions kept at us: 1) When their peep booths spin around so much, how do those boys keep from getting dizzy? 2) How can they stuff those dirty dollar bills down in their g-strings? Do they know where the filthy lucre has

been? and 3) Straight women who love gay porn stars — what's up with that? One woman sitting in our row squealed so loudly when muscley porn star/former Mr. America **Marco Rossi** came wiggling through the audience that we thought Mr. Rossi's testicles might have retreated back up into his body cavity. If not, it was the only intimate trick of anatomy we did not witness at the Peeps.



Porn star J.T. Sloan

During the audience participation segment, porn star **J.T. Sloan** sprawled in our laps and murmured, "Don't worry, you don't have to tip me!" We weren't worried.

At the opening night afterparty at the Nob Hill Adult Theatre, Rossi found a new use for a champagne bottle that we can't even bring ourselves to describe. Kids, don't try this at home!

Live on 16th St.

In the continuing melodrama of "this town is being bought up by the rich, and soon struggling artists will have no place to go," the Redstone Building, that bastion for progressive politics and alternative arts on 16th Street, is in danger of becoming the latest victim of Yuppie gentrification in the Mission. Commercial real estate interests are eager to get their hands on the building, which has been on the market for years, a market now heating up.

"In some ways, the Redstone is like a microcosm of the Mission," says **Elisabeth Bealrd** of The Lab, a nonprofit arts space in the building, noting how the district's historically low rent brought artists and a wide range of community groups to the building in the first place. Current tenants include Theater Rhinoceros, LunaSea Women's Performance Project, El Teatro de la Esperanza, Homeless Children's Network, International

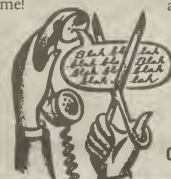
Workers of the World, and the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence**. In other words, a whole big chunk of the alternative arts and politics scene relies on the reasonable rents of the Redstone, which was originally built to house the SF Labor Council offices.

Then there are the independent souls who work there. "This building has allowed me and others to continue our work and passions. Let's not let the developers devour our heart and souls," says theatrical producer **Marc Huestis**, who has an office in the building. As far as Out There could determine, no tenant has a longterm lease that runs past next summer.

That's why the Lab is hosting *Viva La Redstone*, a performance benefit for the Redstone Tenants' Association, on Monday, October 25 at 8 p.m., 2948 16th St. Admission is \$5 to \$50 sliding scale. The performance lineup includes noise artist **Scot Jenerik**, machine art collective **Seemen**, art-rock band **the Knittles**, Flower Cops, synth-pop band Jack's Loss, electronic experimental band **Ants Climb Tree**, a cappella torch singers **Ultraviolet**, the Sisters, and performer extraordinaire **Matthew Martin**.

By the books

Speaking of endangered species, the late lamented independent bookstore **Books & Co.** was a favored haunt for readers and writers in NYC for 20 years before its lease expired and its rent skyrocketed. There's a large and entertaining cast of characters in author **Lynne Tillman's** new "life and times" of **Books & Co.** founder **Jeanette Watson**, **Bookstore** (Harcourt Brace), including immortal poet **Allen Ginsberg** clipping his



Out There

nails (Watson saw "little white things fly across the room") at a **Gary Snyder** reading, and late *I Look Divine* author **Christopher Coe** coaching the staffer who introduced him, "Could you work in the word breathtaking?"

To their everlasting credit, **Books & Co.** kept *The Satanic Verses* in their window when the **Ayatollah** issued his *fatwa* against author **Salman Rushdie** in 1989. Poet/mystic **James Merrill** came in to buy a copy in a plain brown wrapper. Director/charismatic **Andre Gregory** came in impersonating an Arab.

When her father, IBM mogul **Thomas Watson**, brought former Prez **Jimmy Carter** into the bookstore, her staff "rushed around hiding or removing the

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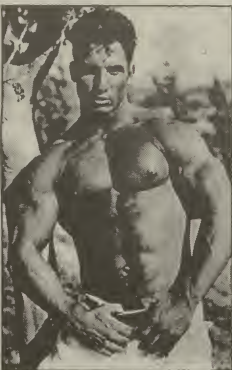
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Street of dreams

Downsized 'Sunset Boulevard' at Curran

by Richard Dodds

Norma Desmond is obviously not the role Petula Clark was born to play, so the fact that she connects with such heat makes her accomplishment all the more impressive. There is a noble struggle in the stretch, and it amply pays off.

Clark, whose gutsy performance has nothing to do with the winsome lass who sang "Downtown," is headlining a touring production of *Sunset Boulevard* that has arrived five years after the musical opened on Broadway. An earlier tour collapsed under the weight of its elaborate set (and a misguided no-star policy), so the *Sunset* on view at the Curran is now more street than boulevard.

But if Norma Desmond's mansion no longer majestically levitates, there is a bright side to the downsizing. The performances are definitely the focus of the new production re-directed by Susan H. Schulman, which doesn't have the visual distractions of the Broadway edition. It's a more human, if less epic, take into which Clark's performance comfortably fits.

Adopting a flat American accent through which her manicured English accent occasionally pokes, Clark's Norma sounds something like Angela Lansbury on speed, and looks a bit like her, too, with some Baby Jane Hudson thrown in. It's surprising at first to see the '60s pop star so transformed, but by the end, the performer and character have become one.

Though various emphases may have changed in this touring reinterpretation, the good and the bad of this adaptation of the classic 1950 Billy Wilder movie remain about the same as in the Broadway production.

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricists Don Black and Christopher Hampton have created two terrific songs for Norma to sing, and that Clark solidly nails: the first-act "With One Look" and the second-act "As If We Never Said Goodbye." That's the good news. The bad news is that almost



Petula Clark as Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*

everything else is recycled dirge, filler, or lumbering dirges.

The book by Hampton and Black is often compelling when Norma is center stage, but it turns to dippy musical-comedy conventions whenever it moves out of her quasi-demented world of a faded silent movie star.

The other considerably more prosaic world belongs to Joe Gillis, a down-at-his-heels screenwriter, who has become Norma's store-bought lover. His periodic forays away from the mansion, mainly to court the musical's cookie-cutter ingenue, squander the magic that the production manages to muster.

But don't blame Lewis Cleale, who does solid work as Joe and who is called upon to sing the inane title song in little more than a pair of Speedos. Though prone to silent movie-sized reactions, Allen Fitzpatrick, as Norma's loyal butler, eventually communicates the passion of his bond for his

employer. Sarah Uriarte Berry, as Joe's true love, is adequate in a two-dimensional role.

With the musical's best songs going to Norma, and its best scenes focusing on her, it is critical how the character is portrayed. Gloria Swanson brought wild-eyed authenticity to the role in the movie, and Glenn Close offered up a kind of kabuki madwoman on Broadway.

Clark, to her credit, has mimicked neither of her high-profile predecessors, adding new facets to this character by suggesting a Norma who emerged from humble circumstances before her face made her a star. The result is a performance that brings a recognizable reality to Norma Desmond's tragic desperation. ▽

Sunset Boulevard will run at the Curran Theatre through Nov. 7. Tickets are \$37-\$77. Call 512-7770.

The need to sleaze

'All-Male Peep Show'

by Richard Dodds

The straight critics from the daily newspapers turned out for Ronnie Larsen's *10 Naked Men* at Theatre Rhino. Somehow, I don't think they're ready for Larsen's *All-Male Peep Show* at the Victoria Theatre. Unless, of course, they can accept naked porn stars sitting in their laps as part of their jobs as reviewers.

The second act of Larsen's production involves an audience-participation scene that is rather generous in its reach-out-and-touch possibilities. And truth in reviewing compels me to report that Chad Donovan provided an unexpected moment of one-on-one theater with this aisle-sitter.

But it is typical of Larsen's conflicted script that this gloriously sleazy pandering is followed immediately by a somber scene about a sad-case performer. Larsen obvi-

ously wants to do more than titillate, but it's hard on an audience to be stroked and then doused.

Peep Show offers a slice-of-life look into the lives of a group of peep-show entertainers as well as several of their regular customers. Larsen, who also created *Making Porn*, is a clever writer and director, and he certainly knows how to write a funny line or develop a witty scene. Some of his best jokes are self-referential, with biting references to his past stars Ryan Idol and Jeff Stryker, and even to the folly of spending \$35 to watch porn stars act.

It is to his credit that he provides a human dimension to the flesh that he also exploits. But a lengthy, earnest monologue, for example, about how a kid from Alabama wound up hustling in New York isn't sufficiently compelling to warrant yanking us away from the sexy stuff.

True, a lot of the scenes about



Chad Donovan

sex undermine their own eroticism with a mocking tone, and there is also a fair share of tease (we never do get to see top-billed and muscle-bound Marco Rossi in the altogether), but it is the promise of more that keeps attentions stoked. The second-act burst of bacchanalia may be Larsen's

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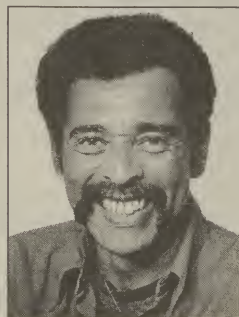
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The human touch

Pulitzer Prize-winning 'Wit' coming to SF

by Richard Dodds

When first-time playwright Margaret Edson won the Pulitzer Prize this year for *Wit*, she toasted herself with a glass of chocolate milk. She was at her job, you see, as a kindergarten teacher in Atlanta. But when she went home that night, she and her partner, Linda Merrill, really celebrated — over pizza.

Wit, an unlikely success story, will embark on a national tour in February, bringing it to the Curran Theatre on May 3 for a four-week run. The play opened off-Broadway last year to glowing reviews and gradually snowballed into a hit production. Judith Light, best-known from the sitcom *Who's the Boss?*, succeeded Kathleen Chalfant earlier this fall, and will headline the tour.

Light plays a haughty, emotionally closed literature professor who is humbled — and made more human — by her battle with ovarian cancer. Despite the grim premise, the play is both humorous and life-affirming as this strong-willed woman battles doctors, nurses, and the hospital system to live out her life with dignity.



Judith Light in *Wit*

Light earned strong notices when she took over the role. "Her conjuring of an unstoppable life force as it draws to a halt is cause for grief, but mostly exaltation," wrote Peter Marks in *The New York Times* in a follow-up review to the production.

"It's a play about kindness, the human touch," Edson said shortly after her Pulitzer Prize was announced, "and one way to show that is through its opposite."

Wit is Edson's first and only produced play. It was inspired by her time working as a clerk at a hospital's cancer and AIDS unit.

Light has her own connections to AIDS issues. In 1989, after playing the mother in *The Ryan White Story* on television, she became involved in such AIDS programs as Project Angel Food, and is on the board of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

That Edson is a lesbian has been a non-issue in news articles about her success and awards, other than matter-of-fact mentions of her female partner. After winning the Pulitzer, Edson said she planned no changes to her life as a kindergarten teacher and

wasn't sure she'd even write another play.

Moon over Europe

"European Holiday" is the theme of 42nd Street Moon's new season that includes a move to the Eureka Theatre. But before the four-show holiday begins, there will be Gershwin at the Gershwin for the big show by this troupe that resurrects "lost" musicals.

George and Ira Gershwin's 1927 musical *Funny Face* will launch the company's 2000 season on May 11 at the Gershwin Theatre, a return to the venue where it

recently presented *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* with Andrea Marcovicci and a small orchestra. Because of licensing complications, this will be the first production of *Funny Face* in more than 20 years.

Backstage

For its first show at the Eureka, after six seasons at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, 42nd Street Moon will offer Cole Porter's *Out of This World* beginning July 13. The 1950 musical, set in Athens, was Porter's follow-up to *Kiss Me, Kate*. But a creaky book undermined the superior score, and the show quickly disappeared. "The Porter trust would like us to create a new book," said artistic director Greg MacKellan, "but I don't know if there will be time."

Provincial England will be the next stop, with the American premiere of *The Good Companions* on Aug. 10. The 1974 London musical, based on the book by J.B. Priestley, has a score by Andre Previn and Johnny Mercer. Clearing the rights is an ongoing process, MacKellan said, and *Half a Sixpence* and *Carmelina* are possible backups.

Dear World, set in the cafes and sewers of Paris, will open at the Eureka on Sept. 7. With songs by Jerry Herman and a book adapted from *The Madwoman of Chailot*, the 1969 musical was a famous disappointment from the creators of *Mame*. MacKellan has been talking to several well-known performers about appearing in the production, and hopes Herman will take a hand in the staged concert.

42nd Street Moon will make a return visit to the Budapest of *I Married an Angel* beginning Nov. 30. The 1938 fantasy with top-drawer songs by Rodgers and Hart also has a "sleek and sophisticated" book, MacKellan said. "It's not stupid at all." The production may be recorded as one of the group's CD projects.

Meanwhile, 42nd Street Moon is finishing up its final season at New Conservatory with *The Grass Harp*, opening on Oct. 29, and *Babes in Arms* on Nov. 26. For more information, call 861-8972.

Reviewed in briefs

Are You Gay? is the title of one of the seven short plays that make up *Menage à Briefs*, the Impact Theatre's third annual foray into the 10-minute form. The idea of "queer and questioning," which has added two more letters to the LGBT chain, is something that pops up several times in this amiable production by the youthful, straight-identified Berkeley troupe.

In Jefferson Arca's *Are You Gay?*, that question is posed by a



Impact Theatre's *Menage à Briefs*

burly man (Josh Costello) to a handsome young stranger (Peter Caslavka) on a park bench. In the end, we never learn the answer, though the ensuing confusion comically reveals the intricacies of today's sexual etiquette.

"I think I'm gay," says a nervous man (Steven Klems) with a nuclear device strapped to his body in Jon Dorf's *A-Bomb Wedding*. He is in a convenience store planning to take hostages when he meets a frantic woman (Stacy Sanders) with similar plans. They turn out to be romantic extremists in Dorf's witty take on life in these modern times.

The horrors of temping, the beleaguered fans of *The Phantom Menace*, touch-tone drug dealers, and the ubiquitous Y2K mess are among the other slice-of-life absurdities that are playfully skewered in the 70-minute evening.

Menage à Briefs will run through Nov. 6 at LaVal's Subterranean Theatre in Berkeley. Call (510) 464-4468.

Short scenes

"Maybe she'll even sing 'Downtown.'" Petula Clark and the cast of *Sunset Boulevard* will offer an evening of cabaret on Nov. 1 to benefit the fight against AIDS. Club Fugazi, the home of *Beach Blanket Babylon*, is the venue. Tickets are \$25 to \$100, with an additional \$25 buying admission to a post-show reception with the cast. Proceeds will benefit the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. For tickets, call 421-4222.

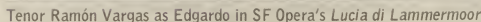
*Kate Clinton, in the Bay Area not long ago with *Correct Me If I'm Right*, is returning with her latest one-person foray into political humor. *Y2K8.comedy* will have performances on Nov. 6-7 at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center in San Rafael. Tickets are available through BASS (478-2277).

*The *Duboce Triangle*, the gay soap opera at Josie's, has a special episode for Halloween opening this week. Garret Jon Groenvelt's *Halloween Show* will run through Oct. 31. Call 861-7933.

*It's the home of Theatre Rhino, the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, the LunaSea Women's Performance Project, and more than a dozen other progressive cultural organizations. The tenants of the Redstone Building at Mission and Capp streets are beginning to feel the heat of gentrification, and will host a performance of alternative artists to benefit efforts to save their home. The Oct. 25 show begins at 8 p.m. at the Lab, 2948 16th Street. Call 864-8855. ▼

Last-minute 'Lucia' save by Tracy Dahl

There was no question of Dahl "taking it easy." She did what a singer with a smallish voice and a big personality has to do — take charge of the stage. From the get-go, her Lucy was nervy, slightly unhinged, a passionate teen living and dying for love. Contemporary in a way, though her vocalism was more like what one heard half a century ago, before Callas, Sutherland and other big-voiced dames made us take



With fingers Dahl and Vargas, Bonygne's accompaniments were perfectly judged, supportive and unfailingly musical. But with Anthony Michaels-Moore's undidomatic Enrico and Reinhard Hagen's undidomatic *and* out-of-tune Raimondo, the conductor simply left well enough alone. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and Bonygne wisely didn't try, saving his energy and smarts for a thrilling sextet and for the two big scenes that end the evening. I don't know about the rest of you, but I went home happy. ▼

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All-American boy in a misfit world

'Boys Don't Cry' a killer film

by Gary Morris

The credits for *Boys Don't Cry* list "Killer Films" as one of the production companies, and that's as apt a description of this powerful film as any. Based on the short unhappy life of the now notorious "sexual misfit" Brandon Teena — aka Teena Ray Brandon of Lincoln, Nebraska — this murder melodrama in the *Badlands* mode establishes first-time director Kimberly Peirce as a major talent. Peirce spent five years on research and interviews, and that immersion pays off handsomely in finely nuanced performances and an unerringly real sense of the horrors that lie hidden in the heartland.

For those who don't know, Teena Ray Brandon (1973-1992) was born a girl but saw herself increasingly as a boy — not as a dyke who loved women, but as a heterosexual male. And her body was apparently sufficiently cooperative to allow her to convince most of those she met, including a string of lovesick girlfriends, that she was who she said she was: Brandon Teena. Inevitably consigned by her renegade status to a marginal crowd of ex-cons, pool hall habitués, factory girls, and burned-out white trash in the dreary burg of Twin Falls, Nebraska, Brandon was eventually exposed as Teena, an act that triggered her brutal rape and murder

by two cons who were part of the crowd she ran with. (One of the killers is on death row; the other is serving consecutive life sentences.)

Boys Don't Cry is a fascinating expansion of what has all the earmarks of a kinky tabloid tale. It adds a kind of downbeat, poetic spin to what we saw in the excellent documentary *The Brandon Teena Story*. The latter film was all about reconstructing a life that not only went mostly unrecorded and unobserved, but was problematic from the gate, since Brandon was branded (by herself and others) with a dizzying array of names and identities — faggot, dyke, boy, girl, hermaphrodite. Since its subject was dead and left little record of herself, the documentary used mostly other people's memories and such prosaic sources as court records and medical transcripts to make sense of a mysterious and tragic life. *Boys Don't Cry's* fictionalized re-creation of Brandon in close-up makes the documentary's word flesh.

Hilary Swank (late of *Beverly Hills 90210*) brilliantly embodies this character as an unsettling pastiche of the all-American boy. Her Brandon is gentle and engaging in an almost "girlish" way, comfortable with and charismatic to women, but drawn to the look — sports shirts and Wrangler jeans — and rituals of men. She drinks, carouses, picks fights and picks up girls, and even wears the



Peter Sarsgaard, Hilary Swank, and Brendan Sexton III star in Kimberly Peirce's *Boys Don't Cry*

badges of male violence — a black eye she gets early in the film — with pride. She wants masculine privilege, and in a simple, self-deluded way imagines the world will accede to her wish and never question the slight strangeness she exudes, the not-quite-right look of someone with a secret.

Macho losers

But the male world she desperately identifies with and wants to be part of is not a pretty place, as

we see early in the film when Brandon's attacked by a bunch of thugs who scream "faggot!" at her, and later when she's assaulted by a fat middle-aged cracker trying to move in on her date. Her friendship with the two ex-cons John (Peter Sarsgaard) and Tom (Brendan Sexton III) pulls her deeper into the dubious world of unexamined machismo, and shows the gulf between Brandon's cheery fantasy of being an "All-American guy" and the lethal reality. John and Tom represent the logical dead end of her aspirations — they're drunken, violent abusers who father kids they abandon, make games out of cutting their own flesh, and meet a lie with murder.

This loose-knit "family" — Brandon, John, and Tom — is completed by Candace (Alicia Goranson), who lets Brandon stay with her and pays dearly for it, and Lana (Chloe Sevigny), who starts as John's girlfriend and ends as Brandon's. They're all social castoffs living rootless lives waiting for Friday night karaoke, "bumper-skiing" and driving endlessly through the dusty fields surrounding Twin Falls. They're ridiculed as "wall people" — near-vagrants who hang out against the wall of an all-night market waiting for something to happen. Brandon's appearance energizes them and gives them a sense of purpose and possibility beyond the wall.

But John and Tom are unpredictable — one minute embracing Brandon, the next playing mind games and threatening vio-

lence. Brandon and Lana have the only sweet moments in the film, and they're fleeting encounters. The love scenes between Brandon and Lana suggest the realization of the possibilities of a personality in transition, the pleasures of living by internal, not social, definitions. Lana's acceptance of Brandon as Teena resonates through the film, even as it fails to save Brandon.

Director Peirce manages to avoid the luridness the story implies while also being direct and unapologetic in her treatment of this challenging character. She balances Brandon's swagger and seemingly uncrackable optimism with quietly devastating moments when Brandon is forced to acknowledge Teena — desperately binding her breasts, checking her underwear, nervously stuffing socks down her pants, practicing boy smiles and boy leers in the mirror.

Acting credits are first-rate throughout, with Peter Sarsgaard and Brendan Sexton almost too credible as the killers, alternately scary and seductive. Alicia Goranson, best remembered as Becky in the *Roseanne* TV show, nicely sketches in the doomed Candace, and Chloe Sevigny, who was the only good thing in Larry Clark's odious *Kids*, entrances as Lana. But Swank holds the film together with her riveting combination of humor, pathos, and pain. ▼

Boys Don't Cry opens Friday in San Francisco.



Chloe Sevigny and Hilary Swank in a tender scene from *Boys Don't Cry*

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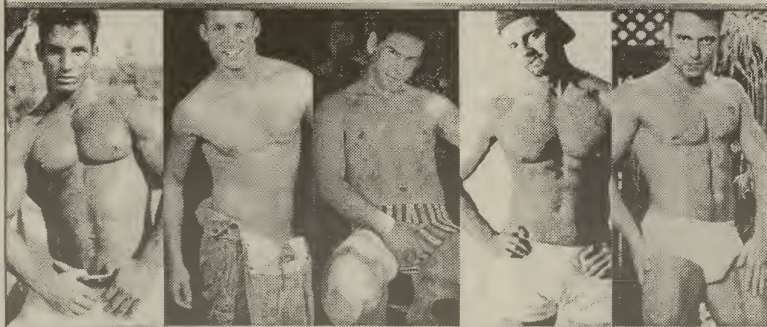
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FILM

Brandon Teena: On his way to iconhood

Director Kimberly Peirce and
star Hilary Swank on 'Boys Don't Cry'

by Brandon Judell

Tom noticed that Brandon's body was twitching. Brandon needed to be finished off.

"One of them pulled out a knife. As the guy opened it, he reached down with his left hand, grabbed Brandon's right shoulder, and pulled her toward him. He was close enough to feel her breath as he pushed the knife toward her, making sure Brandon was dead."

But Brandon Teena wasn't finished off. She wasn't dead ... spiritually. She lives on and will continue to live on, thanks to numerous newspaper and magazine articles; Aphrodite Jones' bestselling book on the crime, *All She Wanted* (Pocket Books), from which the opening was quoted; plus Susan Muska and Gréta Olafsdóttir's award-winning documentary, *The Brandon Teena Story*. Now comes the cherry on the immortality cake, writer/director Kimberly Peirce's brilliant dramatic rendition of the tale of the girl who would be a man and love as one, *Boys Don't Cry*.

Boys Don't Cry, a highlight of the recent New York Film Festival and now opening in the Bay Area, is giving *American Beauty* a run for being the best-reviewed movie of the year. Already critics are yelling that if the Oscars withhold nominations for Hilary Swank's performance as Brandon plus Peirce's direction and screenplay, all hell should break loose.

Peirce, who co-wrote the screenplay with Andy Bienen as her graduate thesis, is trying to take all the clamor in stride. "You just try to stay grounded, you know," she recently told *B.A.R.* "I mean, I think it's hard to show your appreciation. It's like people say these nice things, and you just feel like, 'Oh, my God!'"

Surprisingly, this was not the first story Peirce was planning to stake her future on. "I had been writing a script about a woman who passes as a man during the Civil War. I didn't want to continue writing it, because I ultimately found out she did it for survival reasons. I was more interested in an identity story."

Sock it to me

"Then in April of 1994, I read the *Village Voice* article about Brandon. I was completely overwhelmed. First of all, there was the intensity of her desire to transform herself into her fantasy of a guy. The fact that she was from a trailer park, that she had no role models, and she didn't have much money added to her draw. The overwhelming weight of the imagination that it took to pull this off, and then just the courage to actually put on a pair of pants, put a sock in the pants, slick her hair back, and go out and ask a girl for a date was immeasurable. So I fell in love with the character," said Peirce.

"But in putting together the script, I saw there were two stories here. The story of Teena Brandon, and that's much like Cinderella, Pinocchio, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The transformation."

"The second and the more important part, ultimately, is the love affair: the tragic love story, much like Romeo and Juliet, between Lana [Tisdale] and Brandon."

"We tried in the editing to only tell the love story. But if you don't identify with Brandon early on, you don't care about the love story. You wind up thinking Brandon's a jerk because he's trying to fool Lana. So you have to back up."

"You know, I started out with this overwhelming responsibility to Brandon which was almost terrifying to me at many moments, because he had been so misunderstood by so many people. My aim was to make sense of him. How could I do justice to this person who such injustice had been done to? I saw that he was being mystified and turned into an icon, and I think that was dangerous, because that keeps Brandon at a distance."

But was Peirce trying to make a film with a gay pride message? "If gay people look to Brandon," she replies, "and are somehow more profoundly affected than other people, or they celebrate him and champion him as a model of gay rights, that's wonderful. I don't think that's in competition with anyone else in the world identifying with him."

Undefined

Ms. Swank agrees, remembering the first time she read the screenplay, "I actually didn't know it was a true story. Finding out it was true, I thought, one, this was a very important story to show the world. Two, it was the most challenging role for an actor."

"Once I got the part, it was very important for me not to define what Brandon Teena or Teena Brandon was. My feeling is that she died undefined and unformed. I mean, she never got to say, 'This is what I am!' So it was important to me to kind of leave that for everyone else to decide, because she could have been transgendered. She could have been a lesbian. She was never able to say, because she died at 21. That's what I tried to play."

"You know, when I was first offered the role, it was really important to me to actually pass as a boy in real life, because I knew I'd be doing the film an injustice if I didn't. So I lived my life for 4 weeks as a boy, that included the physical transformation and the mental transformation: seeing what it feels like to be out on the street and have people either think that I'm a boy or that they be confused by my gender. I can say it was life-changing. I learned a lot about humanity."

"It was very interesting. My husband — we just had our 2nd wedding anniversary — was my only anchor. My only place where I could be myself. Be Hilary. At night, I would go home and I just talked like me, not with Brandon's deeper voice ... I couldn't actually live Brandon's life 24 hours a day even though I slept with a dildo on. I strapped it on and slept with it to see what it felt like to just have something between my legs at all times."

"You know when I was dress-



Hilary Swank as Brandon Teena

ing up as a guy, I think gay men liked me better than girls because I think girls want a meatier, bigger, hunky guy. I was a gangly, skinny boy," Swank laughs. "And young-looking. That's another thing. These girls like men a little older than themselves. But you know, I did okay. Girls mostly wanted to be my friend. And yes, I did get picked up by gay men, which is really interesting. I was thinking, 'Gosh! I can fool them.'" Now she can also think, "God, I'm entertaining them ... and doing it superbly." ▼

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Once I calmed down, the Bitch's words did not ring so sourly in my ears. "I'll show her!" I cried, shaking my fist at the morning sky.



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Psycho killer

'Hard' finally opens in SF

by Gary Morris

The gay community hasn't always looked kindly on movies about gay mass murderers. The infamous *Cruising* (1980), for example, became a cause célèbre for featuring such a character, triggering huge demonstrations and a pathetic disclaimer by director William Friedkin that

the film was not intended to be "representative of the gay community." That was nearly 20 years ago, but the feeling persists that the coupling of queers with murderous behavior is too reminiscent of society's general demonization of homosexuality to be acceptable — witness the reception of films like *Frisk* (1996) and *Skin and Bone* (1999), which played briefly to horrified rep house and film festival audiences and then vanished into the dustier corners of a few video stores.

John Huckert's *Hard* (1998), which opens Friday at the Lumiere, has had a similarly hard time. The problems started early. Funding for a low-budget (\$100,000) genre piece about a gay serial killer and a closet-case cop who gets involved with him wasn't exactly forthcoming, and in a time-tested strategy, Huckert, co-producer John Matkowsky, and star Noel Palomaria financed their baby by maxing out 67 credit cards. Their strategy was to "do something edgy Hollywood would never touch, that would really get us noticed," according to Huckert. Hollywood almost didn't get the chance to notice: several labs refused to print what they called "pornography." The industry's largest lab, Deluxe, kindly offered Huckert *et al.* a deferred payment deal, then reneged when they decided the film was indeed obscene. What did they object to? Incredibly, they said, "There are scenes with men kissing. There are guys together. There are women who work here!"

Eventually, the film found a simpatico lab and premiered at the 1998 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, where much of the buzz was negative. It didn't help that *Variety's* reviewer unequivocally panned it. On the other hand, the *L.A. Weekly* and some of the New York papers responded positively; apparently, their critics weren't as skittish as the women working in Deluxe's lab. Still, release has been selective, to put it kindly.

Deadly results

Shot in Los Angeles in 33 days, *Hard* is creepy from the gate. In the opening scene, a handsome blonde drifter type picks up a young hitchhiker in the desert outside LA. The conversation turns increasingly strange until the drifter, Jack (Malcolm Mooreman), drives off the road to torture and murder the kid. It's apparent that this is going to be the first in a string of murders by this charming psycho. The story shifts to detective Raymond Vates (Noel Palomaria), a naive rookie cop who also happens to be a closet case. He and his partner Tom Ellis (Charles Lanyer) are assigned a new case — a gay serial killer, who happens to be Jack. While canvassing the neighborhood, Raymond goes into a gay bar, meets and is instantly drawn to Jack; they end up in bed together, and Jack ties Raymond to the bed, steals his badge, and dares Raymond to find him. The killings accelerate with deadly results for Raymond. When his badge is found stuffed down the throat of a dead queer, he becomes a prime suspect in the killings. He's also booted out of the closet, with predictably violent results from his fellow cops, who are arguably almost as unbalanced as Jack.

This gritty story is solid on the



Noel Palomaria and Malcolm Mooreman in *Hard*

police procedures, helped no doubt by the fact that the filmmakers had the cooperation of a homicide detective and an LAPD officer, who were on the set to lend an air of authenticity. Neither does it skimp on the violence or sex, which is certainly defensible given the subject matter. There are a number of disturbing tableaux of runaways being picked up and murdered (off-screen), though most of these scenes depend more on psychological tension than the raw details. Particularly chilling is a scene where Jack is stopped by cops who, in a touch eerily reminiscent of the Jeffrey Dahmer case, don't take seriously the bruises, blood, and moans of his passenger, whom he portrays as drunk. The film is also refreshingly upfront about the sex, especially in its willingness to show full-

frontal nudity and even that rarity in high-, low-, and no-budget movies: an authentic hard-on (Palomaria's) glimpsed after a steamy encounter between Raymond and another closeted cop.

The acting is mostly earnest, with the handsome, hunky Palomaria credible as the rookie whose education comes too fast and too hard to control. Charles Lanyer nicely sketches in the role of Raymond's partner, but the real standout is Malcolm Mooreman, who masterfully interprets a role that could easily have become shrill and one-dimensional. While we never learn the details of what made him the monster he is, he does make us believe he could exist. ▼

Hard opens Friday, October 22 at the Lumiere. Call 352-0810.

Getting 'Hard'

John Huckert and Noel Palomaria on their sizzler

by Mark J. Huisman

We weren't going to pussy out on the sex. We were going balls out on everything," says director John Huckert. "The joke on the set was, 'How many butt-fucking scenes are we shooting today?'" Huckert's theatrical debut (the first installment in a planned trilogy of queer shock flicks) is *Hard*, the story of a closeted gay cop battling a gay serial killer preying on gay men. A breakthrough for the genre, *Hard* leaves behind the chirpy, affirmative cinema of recent years in favor of a nasty motherfucker mix of sex, violent crime, sex, coming out drama, sex, mistaken identity crisis and more sex, sex, sex. *Hard's* male-on-male frankness temporarily shut the film down: In the spring of 1998, two post-production labs refused to work on the print, calling it pornographic.

"If *Hard* depended on sex between women, or women being killed, there would be no problem," recalls Huckert via phone from his LA studio. "We'd have gotten a credit line at DuArt and Technicolor, and Universal would have offered us a three-picture deal. But *Hard* is about men having sex with men. It's about how the inability to love openly creates perversion."

A Maryland native who never studied filmmaking, Huckert

moved to LA in 1984 to work on *2010*, the sequel to *2001*, whose director, Stanley Kubrick, was Huckert's longtime idol. After years of working craft service, grip jobs, and editing Playboy Channel videos, Huckert met his partners, actor Noel Palomaria and designer and cinematographer John Matkowsky, on whose novel-in-progress *Hard* the film is based. While none of the three would reveal whether their business trio ever became a romantic triangle, their love child *Hard* finally arrives in theaters this weekend.

And there, more than one viewer will dream of making a love child with Palomaria. An up-and-coming Spanish-American looker whose nude scenes (whether in a police station shower or handcuffed to a bed) will more than likely cause some jeans to crease and some crotches to grease, Palomaria admits to some initial (if fleeting) reticence over revealing his full sexuality.

All natural

"Would I get jobs after I did this?" asks Palomaria, whose names are pronounced Palomaria (as in *The Sound of Music*) and No-el (as in French for Christmas). "I came to realize it didn't matter. I've worked with some pretty good-looking women, but this felt very natural. It wasn't difficult to do at all. I

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'Louis Prima: The Wildest' at the Roxie

by Gary Morris

Louis Prima and his wife Keely Smith were a staple of '50s and '60s variety TV, and two of its biggest stars. Prima was famous for his riotous stage presence, what Smith called "that charisma — that little boy thing" that had him mugging for the camera, mock-dueling with his band members, and generally bouncing off the walls. Smith was an ideal foil to this hyper-hepcat, a chanteuse whose smoldering stare and look of mock-contempt threw Prima's antics into joyous high relief.

Prima's story, and peripherally Smith's, is told in Don McGlynn's upbeat documentary, *Louis Prima: The Wildest*, which plays the Roxie for a week beginning Friday. McGlynn is a familiar figure on the jazz doc scene, with previous forays into more controversial figures like Charles Mingus and Art Pepper (and more recently Harold Arlen). Prima's life, engaging in itself, doesn't reach the heights (or depths) of Mingus or Pepper, perhaps because Prima's life didn't follow the cliché trajectory of the intransigent jazz musician done in by drugs, sex, artistic angst, or commercial failure. The film glosses over such stuff in Prima's life, with his possible alcoholism and definite womanizing mentioned but subordinated to his music and his musical persona, seen in a generous sampling of soundies and TV and nightclub clips.

Not that Prima's life was dull. He was the child of a tight-knit immigrant family who came from Italy through Argentina, finally ending up in New Orleans. The film uses interviews with Prima relatives and associates, along with historical footage, to capture

what life was like in the Big Easy's Italian-American community. Prima's style was formed in such intriguing events as a kind of progressive socializing his family engaged in, having a drink in one house, then moving to another, and so on. Prima was fearlessly inquisitive; as a kid, he constantly popped his head into black churches to soak in the dramatic performances inside — a kind of informal information gathering that would pay off when Prima played with great success at the Apollo Theater and other black venues. A foundational element of black music, call and response, is arguably the basis for Prima's whole shtick — he calls, and the audience can't help but respond.

No regrets

This unapologetic ethnic element runs through Prima's career and life; the film notes he was one of the few obviously ethnic entertainers who never turned his back

on his roots once mainstream success hit. He always revived — to his audiences' delight — Italian novelty numbers, and much of his performing persona could be traced to the wildly energetic Italian kid who never grew up.

Still, there were other sides to Prima. The film documents his pioneering work as a Vegas performer, adding music to Vegas' identity as a gambling town. Legendary sax player and Prima collaborator Sam Butera recalls that when they played Vegas, Prima kept things fresh and spontaneous by refusing to give the band a playlist. "He called out the songs and we played," he recalls. Butera is one of many interviewees whose emotional and artistic connection with Prima is remembered with awe.

Prima was also a serious musician, an expert trumpeter and author of numerous tunes, including the jazz standard "Sing Sing Sing!" His style is an unusual



Louis Prima

combination of playful and intense. One of the things that makes his music timeless and alive is that he could never resist toying with his own artistry, mocking it, even as a younger player. This is shown to fabulous effect in a "duel" with Pee Wee Russell in which the two have a musical "conversation," blowing notes back and forth that sound amusingly like speech.

Prima's association with Keely Smith, who looks amazingly good for her age in the interviews here, benefited both despite his eventual desertion of her for a younger

woman. Smith emerged from paralyzing shyness to become a household name, and Prima found the ideal partner both professionally and personally. Those who have dismissed Smith based on her recorded music only have half the story; the other half can be seen in clips of her performing. Their interplay has the resonance of a kind of comic psychodrama. In a song like "Old Black Magic," Prima prances around in front of her, seemingly desperate for her approval. Smith sneers silently, then Prima skulks away briefly to regroup. Finally, unable to contain himself, he bursts out with an inspired, frenzied bit of song and dance. In this typical scenario, Prima's boyish charms and sheer energy eventually win her over, as they do us, and she adds her coolly beautiful voice to the number. ▼

Louis Prima: The Wildest plays the Roxie Cinema Oct. 22-28.

Peep Show

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way of getting those obligations out of the way.

The cast of both porn stars and civilians handle their obligations well enough, though there were a few flubbed lines on opening night, and the pacing could certainly be tightened.

Donovan, beyond a buoyant personality in the audience-participation scene, displays a skill at dialogue in the Alabama monologue. Tommy Lord credibly and appealingly plays innocent as a performer just off the bus. J.T. Sloan and Brad Phillips are the other peep-show performers, and Gino Colbert turns up as Rossi's manager.

Paul Tena is the most accomplished member of the cast, amusingly playing the jaded Pakistani peep-show owner. Max Stone is gruffly appealing as one customer, Octavio Saez de Ibarra is a natural clown as another, and Scott Campbell is a latex-encased third. Erich Lange ably plays a nice-guy customer, with Jared Scott as his button-down lover who can't understand his need for sleaze.

In the end, sleaze wins out. As one character says about long-term love affairs, "Domestic partner? It sounds like a maid you have to fuck." ▼

Ronnie Larsen's All-Male Peep Show will run at the Victoria Theatre through Oct. 24. Tickets are \$25-\$35. Call (510) 601-8932.

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Beyond category

'A Tribute to Ellington' on CD

by Michael McDonagh

Crossing over is both a marketing tool and a sincere attempt by musicians to try something new. Many have dipped their toes in unfamiliar waters. We've had opera stars Te Kanawa and Hampson singing show tunes, and the queen of soul herself, Aretha Franklin, doing Puccini, beautifully, at the Grammys.

Composer Duke Ellington (1899-1974) was accused of abandoning jazz when he and his band supposedly crossed over to large-form classical music with his first extended work, *Black, Brown and Beige*, which they gave at Carnegie Hall in 1943. But this pioneering musician, whose centennial year is being celebrated worldwide, considered his work to be "beyond category." As such, it's available to everybody, even French classical pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, who made a technically faultless but pretty lackluster Ellington CD this year. The missing ingredients were passion and real sympathy. And if Ellington's music doesn't feel spontaneous, what's the point?

Pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, who succeeded Solti as music director of the Chicago Symphony in 1991, is a big name in the classical music world and one of the best Mozart players

around. And he's certainly gotten the point of the music in this new Teldec *Tribute to Ellington*, where he serves as pianist on all 15 numbers. He's joined here by 6 members of his orchestra, including famed French horn Dale Clevenger and principal clarinet Larry Combs, who doubles on sax. Jazz diva Dianne Reeves and star clarinetist-composer Don Byron and five Chicago jazz artists complete the mix. Nobody sounds like they're slumming, and there's not a false note in the arrangements made by conductor Cliff Colnot, who works with the Chicago Symphony and its training orchestra, and directs the University of Chicago's new music group. In transcribing the original recordings, he doesn't dilute any of Ellington's thrilling and seductive colors, and there are plenty here.

Like all good arrangements, they reveal the music. Two of the most spectacular are "Caravan" (1936, co-written with Duke's trombonist Juan Tizol) with Joel Spencer's driving tom-tom solo and growling muted brass, and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" (1940) with its stunningly voiced harmonies, striking range of textures, and razor sharp attacks. "Sweet Thursday" (1960) from *Suite Thursday*, which Ellington co-wrote with his "composing companion" Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967), gets as much

atmosphere from Spencer's steady locomotive pulse as it does from Byron's fluid playing. (There are three other tunes by the gay composer/arranger here.)

Colnot combines the 1930 standard "Mood Indigo" with the 1960 "Purple Gazelle" (from Duke's *Afro Bossa* LP) to striking emotional and coloristic effect. All of the other selections, including "Sophisticated Lady" (1932) and "Prelude to a Kiss" (1938), are wonderful, too. Dianne Reeves continues the classical tradition established by Ella Fitzgerald by letting the tiniest gesture speak volumes. Barenboim sounds truly inspired, as does everyone else.

Ellington's works combine drama and meditation in equal parts, and "they can," as Duke scholar and composer Gunther

Schuller has written, "in performances by fine musicians with fine ears, not only re-create the original, but bring it to an excitement and drive that has its own validity." All you have to do is listen. ▼

The San Francisco Jazz Festival presents The Gerald Wilson Orchestra, Louie Bellson Big Band, Queen Esther Marrow, Jon Faddis, and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir in *Orchestral Ellington: A Centennial Celebration* on Friday, Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. at Masonic Auditorium. Info: 788-SFJF.

Michael McDonagh heads the Bay Area Chapter of the Duke Ellington Society.

Patricia Barber

Arts cover

Barber is the kind of questioning, perpetually restless artist who just keeps getting better. You hear the changes, substantive ones, in CD after CD — although she rightly says that her debut CD, *Split*, is a record "I'm very proud of." But even appreciating that hasn't kept me from getting stuck a few in installments back. I'm sure to catch up to her some day — aesthetic stalking is like that — but for the moment I'm a helpless victim of *The Distortions of Love*, at least so to speak. Track 3, "You Stepped out of a Dream," is as potent a seven-minute musical ride as

I'm up to at the moment. Barber's voice — a rich, firm, spacious mezzo with a soaring upward extension — steals into the instrumental texture (stepping out of a dream, as it were), incants a verse, vanishes, slips back in almost unnoticed — and then takes flight in an ecstatic descant that fuses with the supporting instruments in a way that leaves me unclear, after more listenings than I'm willing to admit to, whether it's an instrument (and what instrument?) or Barber's voice I'm hearing as I'm being hauled off into heaven. Then there's the haunting pair of familiar — or once-familiar — songs at the end, "My Girl," which Barber almost convinces you only a lesbian should ever sing, and a haunting "By Myself."

Wow-raiser

It may be time to retire the idea that it's hard to be lesbian or gay in the macho world of jazz. It may have been a journalistic conceit in the first place, since it's always easier to talk about something like that than, God forbid, the music. But Fred Hersch, the most openly gay man in jazz, has never made much of it — and is enjoying as much of a career surge as Barber. In a phone conversation from her Chicago home, Barber, who has been out her entire performing career, says, "Strangely enough, it's no big deal. My audience has always been very mixed — old and young, black and white, straight and gay — so I just don't know. And then, I don't know what people say about me when I walk away." On my obser-

vation at her last Bay Area appearance, at a fundraiser for Bay Area Women for the Arts, that would be, "Woowoooo."

Barber's big concern is balancing the increasing demands of her concert schedule, which is now international, and the time she needs for what increasingly matters most to her, writing her own music (which includes lyrics). "The success has been a blessing, but it's bittersweet," she says. "I'm not too good on the road. I really hate it. I have a big calendar on my desk, and I mark off the time on the road in colored ink — so I know what I'm giving away. And I block out months when I simply won't go on the road. I'm a creature of habit, and I need a routine."

Writing music requires a lot of lying around, dreaming, reading and taking walks.

The success of *Modern Cool*, which is comprised mostly of Barber's own material and is her biggest stretch as an instrumentalist (her piano playing gets deeper, more adventurous and more assured with every appearance) and ensemble player, has naturally prompted Blue Note, her current record company, for more of the same. While *Companion* is, she says, in fact a companion to *Modern Cool*, she's insisting on an album of standards next. "Every night I fall in love with another one," she says. "There are so many. The problem is deciding which ones to include." Given items like "Black Magic Woman" on *Companion*, I'd guess Blue Note has nothing to worry about, saleswise. Barber singing "Black Magic Woman" makes my hair stand up, in all the right places and all the right directions.

More jazz

If you missed Gonzalo Rubalcaba on the Festival's second night, check out his new CD, *Inner Voyage*, easily his greatest ever. This Cuban pianist with the technique that won't quit fortunately won't quit growing as a musician, and the exhibitionist days seem gone for good — not that the playing is still not jaw-dropping. The title says where this guy is going, and it's a place you just may want to go with him.

Halloween revelers will have to

next page ►

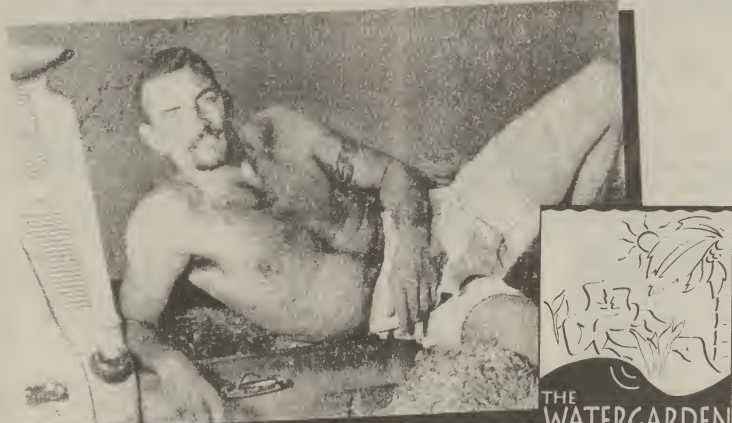
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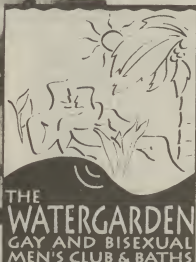
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DANCE

Art on a bed of carnations

Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal

by Aimée Ts'ao

The curtain is up and the entire stage is carpeted in pink and white carnations, front to back, wing to wing, not strewn, but each on its own stem. There the literalness ends as I walk down the aisle of UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall to see Pina Bausch's *Nelken* (Carnations) performed by her company, Tanztheater Wuppertal, on tour from Germany. Instead, I enter another world, a realm created by this master of theater and choreography, not just to satisfy her own need to express herself, but to give the audience an opportunity to feel for themselves. As Bausch said in an interview with Christopher Bowen, "If I tell what I feel or what I want in a piece, then the people in the audience try to look at it with my eyes. That is why I do not talk about meanings. The audience is part of the creation."

No customary blackout and curtain-raising here. *Nelken* begins simply, with the dancers in evening dress gingerly picking their way through the flowers, carrying chairs, which they place in a semi-circle facing the front, and sitting down. One at a time, they rise and walk into the audience, where they link arms with spectators and escort them up the

aisles. Immediately, the fourth wall is shattered — there is no longer a division between those on stage and off. "The Man I Love," sung by a woman on a recording, is signed by a man. Another man enters with a microphone, and amplifies his own heartbeat and others' as well. A topless woman with an accordion wanders around stage, never playing a note. While these fragments can at first seem arbitrary, by the time the performance is over, Bausch has woven them into the entire tapestry, never leaving a single thread dangling.

Whether the dancers are playing a children's game which suddenly turns the tables on the leader, or lying down dead in the carnations covering their faces with cloth, everything on stage is just another expression of the complexity of human experience from birth to death, the emotional vicissitudes of interacting with society, with other individuals, and finally with one's self. It examines our response to authority, peer pressure, and even gender roles as the men shed their suits for ill-fitting dresses. Fortunately, Bausch's remarkable dancers are equal to the task, as not only do they possess technique and stamina, but they perform every gesture with artistic commitment.

The costumes by Marion Cito,

gowns and suits from between the World Wars, and the chairs with their elegant lines and wooden arms, cannot help but evoke an image of Germany during Hitler's rise to power, though the piece is far more universal than that. Further chilling power is unleashed by four stuntmen whose extreme physicality is demonstrated by throwing themselves from 20-foot scaffolds into piles of cardboard boxes, or repeatedly falling face down on a table to terrorize a woman watching. Bausch's manipulation of the choreographic phrases in no less astounding. Like a baroque composer, she repeats motifs, repeats them again with variations, braids them into visually intriguing fugues, and features solos and duets against the continuo.

In today's world, where technology fosters the proliferation of information without nurturing the wisdom and insight necessary to intelligently utilize it, I often see endeavors in dance and theater which echo that, high-level aesthetic elements thrown together with no understanding of the compositional implications. For me, the difference between entertainment and art is that entertainment is based on skill and craft, but art must add sincerity and inspiration to them. Pina Bausch is a brilliant artist who succeeds in making us feel. ▼



Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal in *Nelken*.

SF Jazz Fest

◀ previous page

make hard choices about hearing Brad Mehldau, who's slated for the Yerba Buena Center Theatre on October 31. Anyone who has heard him won't; there's only one place to be when he's playing. For a taste of what's to come, try either of his new CDs (which are appearing at a dizzying rate). *The Art of the Trio*, Volume 4, "Back at

the Vanguard," is a breakneck, angry, "Don't call me Bill Evans" ride that will blow your hair back, and a second volume of work with Lee Konitz and Charlie Haden (following the brilliant *Alone Together*) is due in stores any minute.

Let's take another minute to deplore KDFC-FM's decision to stop carrying the live Metropolitan Opera broadcasts on Saturday mornings. The station's lame (and fallacious) claim that the broad-

casts are not what its listeners (read advertisers) want in that time slot is market-driven doubletalk at its most deplorable. The Met broadcasts are the only radio music the public talks about (there's not much to say about all concerto grosso all the time, the rest of the station's ad-friendly programming) — and they get a lot of listeners in this opera-starved town. It's one of the heartbreaks of modern cultural life that there's no room for a Lexus ad in the first act of *Parsifal*, but it's something that a station that claims to serve its listeners might have learned a way to work with by now. Or just eat it. Is nothing sacred in the waning days of the 20th century? ▼

For more information on the SF Jazz Fest, call 788-SFJF or visit www.sfjazzfest.org.

Full sweep



JOHN MARKOWSKI

Program 2 of the Oakland Ballet's season is the big excitement in the dance world this weekend, as the company gives the world premiere of Artistic Director Emeritus Ronn Guidi's *Rhenish Symphony*, to the sweeping Schumann symphony. It's Guidi's first work since he passed the baton, so to speak, to his protégé, Acting Artistic Director Joral Schmalke, who also dances in the piece (pictured, with Jill Taylor).

The evening also includes a Diaghilev-era masterwork, Bronislava Nijinska's *Les Biches* (to Poulenc), and Bay Area choreographer Betsy Erickson's *Beneath the Waves* (to Glass). In other words, a dynamite program is in store for us.

Oakland Ballet performs Friday & Saturday, Oct. 22-23 at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. For tickets (\$12-39), call (510) 762-BASS. ▼

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All the beautiful lies

by Chris Culwell

The Elusive Embrace: Desire and the Riddle of Identity by Daniel Mendelsohn; Knopf, \$24

Daniel Mendelsohn's *The Elusive Embrace* is a book about identity. On one level it concerns the author's own struggle to understand himself, as a homosexual and as the adopted father of a child he is raising with a female friend. On another level, the book is about the timeless and universal quest for self-knowledge. Mendelsohn doesn't offer solutions to these problems. Instead, his book demonstrates the paradox of identity, namely that the closer we get to what we think is the truth about ourselves, the more uncertain things become. Identity is like a double- or triple-bottomed box that fools us into thinking we've reached the bottom when in fact there is yet another layer, if not several, to be reckoned with. Ancient cultures had a better grasp of the complexities of persona, and in each chapter of his book Mendelsohn folds in liberal doses of Ovid, Sophocles, Sappho and Catullus. These ruminations aren't offered to show off Mendelsohn's erudition with classical literature; rather, they demonstrate how nimble the ancient mind was at



Author Daniel Mendelsohn

fashioning narratives around the conundrums of identity. These reflections on beauty, love, and the complexities of self and other, possess a timeless meaning for contemporary readers.

Mendelsohn begins his book by stating that he lives in two different places, a "quiet street lined with houses" in upstate New York, where he is raising a child with his friend Rose, and Manhattan's Chelsea district, "with its men and boys and flesh." The contrast between these settings couldn't be more startling, but for Mendelsohn, the incongruity exemplifies the conundrum of identity: "Each is telling only half the story. We are always two things at once."

Compromise makes it possible to be one or more things simultaneously. We go through life listening mostly to a "middle voice," writes Mendelsohn, an arbitrator between the ideal self we think inhabits us and a more realistic persona. In Mendelsohn's case, the middle voice is one that exists between the passionately mysterious world of desire, filled with men and sex, and the realm of love, inhabited by Rose and her son, Nicholas.

Pure beauty

The Ancients were sensitive to the opposition between an absolute self and the other that intrudes, and the convergence of the two, with its inevitable occlusion of the ideal self, explains the emergence of a tradition of tragic poetry that mythologized the failure to surmount reality. "In tragedy we find the pure beauty of absolutes," writes Mendelsohn, "a beauty you cannot have if you choose to live." To trade on one's idealism is to accommodate reality by obliterating one's other half, but the protagonists in classical tragedy didn't make such adjustments. Denied the ideal self, they favored death.

In our own hip-obsessed age, tragedy's bulb has dimmed, but we still dissemble the compromises we make with reality, and the bulk of *The Elusive Embrace* concerns such storytelling. From a grandfather who told "beautiful lies" to students at a Southern university who adopt the institution's puzzling conventions, Mendelsohn reveals how the narratives we engage in are essential to our identity, our sense of authority and self-possession in the world. His grandfather's tales are especially illuminating, for they demonstrate not only how we continually search for symbols of distinctiveness, but how these badges are always drawn from the past and culled, mostly unwittingly with little or no regard for the truth.

But *The Elusive Embrace* isn't just about other people's stories. It's also about Mendelsohn's own

"beautiful lies," especially those he has entertained as a gay man. Complaining about the shallowness of the bar scene while frequenting such places in search of love is, writes Mendelsohn, "a necessary lie," necessary because it would be too difficult for most gay men to admit that the real reason we go to bars isn't to meet other gay men but to be seen, admired, captured at our most ideal, "to exist in the exquisite moment when our desirability is still perfect, unspoiled by contact." Lying is essential "because who could acknowledge that this is what he really wanted — to be a flawless image rather than a living person, to have narrative rather than a life, to be tragic rather than to live."

It is likely that many readers will quibble with Mendelsohn's image of gay men as the hapless agents of a dream life ruled by desire. Yet the author's highly personal look at his own behavior, as well as that of other gay men, with its elaborately fetishized body and boy worship and fleeting sexual encounters, suggests that our lifestyles are neither as arbitrarily structured nor free of pathology as some amongst us would have it. Even the gay men Mendelsohn knows who are in stable, longterm relationships seek sex outside the primary link. "This," writes Mendelsohn, "is a fact of gay life." But why? Though gay men spin endlessly about how they're looking for "Mr. Right" and that "stable, meaningful relationship," everything in our subculture, whether it be San Francisco, Los Angeles, Paris or New York, underscores the fact that gay culture is "the dream of masculinity, a dream of a world of repeated and infinitely repeatable ejaculations, a laboratory in which to see what masculinity does without the restraints imposed by women."

Unrestrained by such demands, men are allowed to endlessly explore a sexuality the author says is characterized by "perfect" intimacy, perfect because both partners know what the other is experiencing physically during penetration. Yet, writes Mendelsohn, this affinity is also "redundant," since both parties know what to expect. Which is why, writes Mendelsohn, so many gay men seek repetition in sex, for "it's as if depth were impossible." In straight sex, woman is the destination, the end point, the goal, "the place where [men] are going." But in gay sex men "fall through their partners back into themselves, over and over again."

What is it we seek in this journey? It's not so much to be reunited with ourselves as with the conflicted first loves of our youth, around whom so many unresolved feelings swirl, and whom we see reflected in every boy-man who turns our head. We return to these gestative experiences again and again, so as to understand, if not abjure, the sense of shame that taught us as children to "identify desire with impossibility," suffer love in silence, learn "to catch the sound of statues speaking."

Mendelsohn's *The Elusive Embrace* is a riposte to the reductivist trend in much contemporary nonfiction writing. His book valiantly attempts to muddy the waters by focusing on the strangeness and complexity of human experience. In the end, the book is a kind of reflecting pool in which we can see ourselves in all our conflicted glory — queer, straight, bi and everything in-between. ▼

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BOOKS

Bag of tricks

by Jim Nawrocki

His3: Brilliant New Fiction by Gay Writers edited by Robert Drake with Terry Wolverton; Faber and Faber, \$15.

Anthologies of gay fiction have become something of a cottage industry in recent years. These books seem to come in two varieties. On one side are the collections of theme erotica that usually have titles such as *My First Time*, *Hazing Memories*, *Military Studs*, and so on. On the other side are the collections of not-necessarily-erotic-but-gay short fiction that appear each year, such as *Men on Men*, *Best Gay Stories of 199*, and *Flesh and the Word*. The *His* series belongs in the latter category, and its latest installment, *His3*, offers up a collection of work that is diverse, sometimes surprising, and sometimes predictable.

One of the refreshing aspects of the collection is that it does

not (unlike so many of its counterparts) include an introduction or preface by the editors, in this case, Robert Drake and Terry Wolverton. They prefer to let the stories and the authors speak for themselves. The "Notes on the Contributors" section at the end of the book, for example, includes personal statements from each author about who they are and where their stories came from. Drake and Wolverton waste no space offering explanations about why they picked what they picked to put between the covers of *His3*. The reader assumes that the editors were simply looking for quality gay fiction, and for the most part, that's what they deliver.

What's predictable about *His3* is that it exhibits some of the key characteristics of that odd animal, the gay fiction anthology. When encountering the gay fiction anthology in the wild, the alert reader can spot it among its surroundings by noting it almost always: displays distinctive plumage

(i.e., some kind of lurid cover of one or more photographic young male models), emits a familiar call (one can expect several stories about sex and tricking, and more than a few AIDS-inspired tales) and hunts over a diverse terrain (the editors usually strive to include stories about gays of all colors, creeds, ages and faiths). These observations are not necessarily indictments of *His3* or of any other gay fiction collections. Rather, they highlight the fact that gay fiction remains highly sexualized and politicized. Gay writers and readers — so says the evidence of these anthologies — are still haunted by AIDS, still thrilled about the liberation of writing openly about queer sex, and still concerned with including everyone.

Second chances

Some of the stories in *His3* tap into this "gay zeitgeist." The collection's first story, Robert Ordoza's "World Without End," describes a curious shared afternoon between a young nun and a gay man whose partner is struggling with the prospect of living with,

His³

rather than dying from, AIDS. Similarly, David A. Newman's "Good News and Bad News" is the story of one man's ongoing effort to incorporate AIDS into his life while still believing in second chances. David Pratt's "Series"

is a charming, nostalgia-laced meditation on gay "generations" in the aftermath of AIDS. Like most of the AIDS tales in *His3*, Pratt's story ends with an ambiguity that reflects our gay culture's continuing but evolving anxiety about the disease. Pratt's world-weary protagonist closes the story with, "I put my closed lips to the back of your neck, but I do not know whether your skin is warm or cool."

Queer sexuality also gets its due in *His3*. Rick Sandford's "Manifest White" offers itself as a kind of "psychological pornography" in which a rough, anonymous rooftop encounter between two men becomes a journey of discovery for a submissive "worshipper." Sandford veers from erotica to psychobabble-laden prose poetry throughout the story, and the result is somewhat unsettling. Gary Bowen's "Barrel Racers" tells the story of a Chi-

cano rodeo cowboy's encounters with a transgendered counterpart; it's a piece that reads more like a manifesto of transgendered sexuality than a work of fiction. One story, Michael Skiff's "Blood Brothers," depicts a one-night stand that is interrupted by a deadly earthquake. Michael Anthony Gold's story "Dann" is memorable because it depicts a budding gay romance that does not include sex.

Drake and Wolverton, like most anthology editors these days, seem to take care to make sure their collection is culturally diverse. It features stories with Black, Asian and even Turkish characters. Philip Gambone's beautiful "The Singing Boy," about two Americans who encounter a startling young man during a trip to China's Great Wall, is perhaps the most finely crafted story in the book. The collection also includes two fine stories about growing old as a gay man. Christopher Lord's "La Tortuga" is about a middle-aged man whose vacation with a studly young boyfriend prompts a sobering, but still hopeful, personal epiphany. David Watmough's semi-autobiographical "Sharing Hale-Bopp" is told from the perspective of an 86-year-old narrator who has reached a unique realization about being gay in one's "twilight years."

There is much that is "typical" about *His3*, but this is not necessarily a bad thing, and it does not diminish the fact that *His3* has some excellent stories to offer. ▼

Fatherhood trumps gayness

by Marv. Shaw

The Velveteen Father by Jesse Green; Villard, \$23.95

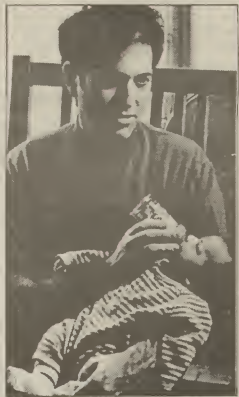
Jesse Green subtitles his memoir "An Unexpected Journey to Parenthood," and inasmuch as he is gay, a son in a conventional Jewish family, and well into his young maturity, the journey is indeed unexpected. But he is also in love with Andy, a school counselor who is nine years older than he and resolved to become a father. Green is "velveteen" (according to the dictionary, "imitation velvet of cotton twill") only because he is open to the rewards of parenthood, even though he is apprehensive of the difficulties.

Green has an older brother and both loving parents, who are descendants of Eastern European immigrant Jews, and has evolved a career as a sophisticated writer of journalism and fiction. His urban gay life is centered in Greenwich Village. Becoming a gay father would seem highly improbable, and the problems of adoption are daunting, but in his love for Andy, he is more and more willing to be a — well, call his status "co-parent."

After a careful introduction of his background in family, Jewish community life, and a typical separation from Elliot — his former lover, his increasingly estranged "roommate," and an oddly reluctant divorcee — Green and his lover work out the mechanics of adoption.

Erez is the name they choose for the adopted infant boy. Though the child's mother is a Latina who somehow got across the Mexican border to give birth, Andy is determined to make his adopted son Jewish, so the chosen name is Israeli for "cedar."

While Andy is the official and more fully functioning father, Green finds himself increasingly involved in bring up Erez and



Author Jesse Green

strongly emotionally involved in the boy's welfare. While there are problems, Green feels and acts in a fatherly way.

Erez is hardly emergent from infancy into childhood when the probability of a second adopted son passes from dreamy desires into action. The result is Lucas, of the same parentage and brought into the family in much the same legalistic and loving way.

Though Green and Andy have lived separately until this addition, they grow closer when Green moves from Manhattan to near Andy's home in Brooklyn. The four of them are accepted completely into Andy's and Green's families, and when the four go together to the market, they are treated with the amusement "genuine" parents would be. The comment "Giving Mommy a day off?" is common.

The headline for this review comes from Green's own words. The identity of parenthood has brought Green the realization of adulthood in a way he otherwise couldn't have known. The telling of this memoir is strong and genuinely emotional. No sentimentality present. ▼

OUT&ABOUT

Fri 22

Bethany United Methodist Church

Benefit concert featuring Bethany's 17-rank pipe organ and piano (Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D minor" and Dukas's "Sorcerer's Apprentice"); members of the SF Gay & Lesbian Winds of Freedom Band; Bethany's Handbell Choir (medley from Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera"); and creepy, scary Halloween monster music. Costumes encouraged. Proceeds support Bethany's Organ Fund. \$10 suggested donation. 1268 Sanchez (at Clipper). 647-8393.

848 Community Space

"Small Bits of Progress Are Being Made," a fusion of dance, theater, music and film, choreographed by by Mary Armentrout, with sound and text by Merlin Coleman. Their work explores the edge where live performance meets the unknown. Local band Solarcane (The Serfs on Oct. 23) will perform immediately following the performance. \$10 (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Also on 10/23. 848 Divisadero. Tix: (510) 845-8604.

Buriel Clay Theatre

"Greensboro: A Requiem," by playwright Emily Mann, directed by John Warren. Survivors of a 1979 massacre by the Ku Klux Klan tell their incredible story of healing and hero-

ism. Mann authored the widely acclaimed play "Execution of Justice," which focused on the killing of Harvey Milk and George Moscone. \$13-\$15. 8pm. Thru Nov. 20. Center for African & African American Art & Culture, 762 Fulton St. (near Webster). Tix: 621-7797.

Josie's

The Half Baked Players, in association with The Playwrights Foundation, present "Halloween Show," a new episode of the gay soap "The Duboce Triangle." Written by Garret Jon Groenvel; directed by John Morace. \$12. 8pm (8pm Fri.; 8pm & 10pm Sat.; 7pm Sun.). Thru 10/31. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 16th & Market streets. 861-7933.

Herbst Theatre

Humanities West presents "Gloriana: Art and Intrigue in the Court of Elizabeth I." Illustrated lectures will revel in the elaborate pageantry of life and ritual in Elizabethan society; visit the lives of Sir Walter Raleigh, Christopher Marlow, and other contemporaries. The two-day program will look at the art, architecture, and applied arts during Elizabeth's reign. Dramatic performances and film capture the spirit of Gloriana. \$30 today; \$25 Saturday; \$50 both days. 401 Van Ness Ave. (near McAllister). Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400.

Peacock Gap Country Club, San Rafael

"Spectrum 6th Annual Gala Masquerade Ball," featuring comedians Karen Ripley and Danny Williams, the Galaxy Drag Show, casino and silent auction, and dancing with DJ Page Model. Plus hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, no-host bar, masquerade mask contest and prizes. Evening attire and masks encouraged. Spectrum is Marin County's community center for the LGBTQ community. \$50 advance; \$60 door. 8pm-midnight. 333 Biscayne Dr., San Rafael. Info: 457-1115, ext. 229.

Sat 23

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Reading and book signing by Gad Beck, author of *An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin*. He tells the story of a resistance fighter who had gay romantic encounters in a Berlin under constant bombardment. Co-sponsored by A Different Light Bookstore. Free. 7pm. 290 Dolores. Info: 431-0891.

Main Library

Panel discussion: "The Illusion of Conformity: Don Lucas and Sleight-of-Hand Activism in the 1950s and 1960s," held in conjunction with the exhibition now hanging in the library's

James C. Hormel Center, curated by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Historical Society. Featuring Don Lucas. Free. 2-4pm. Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room. Info: 777-5455.

Harvey Milk Institute

Classes begin: "Making the Most of Your (Mid)Life: For Women," with Pat Chambers (1-day only; 10am-4pm; \$50); and "Foundations of Filming for Gay/Bi Men," with Jamie Moran (1-day only; noon-4pm; \$25). Info: 552-7200 or surf www.gayglob-alsf.com/harveymilk



Ku Klux Klan bashing victims tell their tale in *Greensboro: A Requiem*, at Buriel Clay Theatre. See Friday.

Julie M. Ramirez

Hunter's Point Shipyard Studios

SF Open Studios, featuring dozens of artists concentrated in one location, their studios housed in several buildings within easy walking distance from one another. Buy works directly from the artists. Good site for viewing lots of art in a relaxed afternoon. Food & drink at nearby Zac's Rocket Cafe. Free. 11am-6pm. Also on 10/24. Info: 364-1629 or surf www.sfopenstudio.com

Miraloma Club House

Pacific Friends sponsors a Halloween party with costume contests, performances, and dance music by DJ Jack Rojo. Prizes for the most original, sexiest, and scariest costumes. Finger food and drinks served. \$10-\$12. 7pm. 350 O'Shaughnessy (at Del Valle). Info: 564-7199.

First Unitarian Universal Church

In concert: The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, featuring the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. Join them for a candlelit performance of "Love Notes" romance from around the world. Includes the debut of works by June Bonasich and Kirke Mechem.

8pm. Also on 10/24 at 5pm. 1187 Franklin (at Geary). Tix at Community Box Office, A Different Light Bookstore, and Mama Bears.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema welcomes NYC avant-garde film wonders Brian Frye and Bradley Eros, two adventurous young lads showcasing "Subterranean Science," an assortment of science-education reels ("not experimental films, but experiments with films") utilizing unique projection arrangements, affording viewers a "total physical sensorium" of smoke and mirrors, cellings, smells, and even tastes "a delicious cinematic synaesthesia." \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Potrero Hill Festival

Headlining this year's festival at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House will be Lavy Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers. Other participating venues include Bottom of the Hill, Bloom's, Cafe Cocomo, Il Pirata, Kelly's New Mission Rock, Goat Hill Pizzeria, Garibaldi's Restaurant and others.

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Mikono Inori, 1996, single-channel video installation, by Mariko Mori.

Time warp

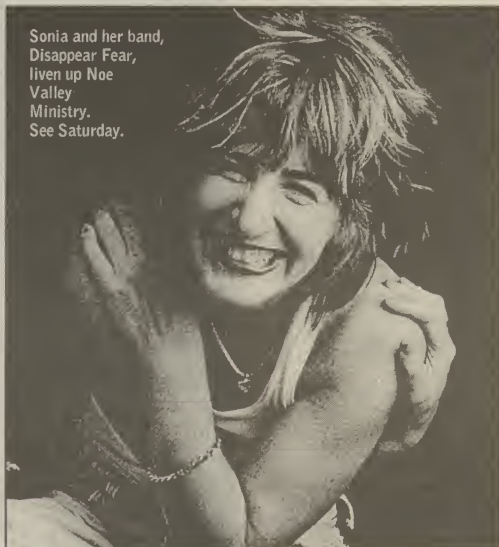
Linear versus non-linear; real-time versus fragmented and distorted time; clarity versus obscurity: such are the contrasts that play out in conceptions of postmodern media art compared with modernist film and video work. No longer do artists working in electronic media attempt to convey clarity; rather, they endeavor to enlighten through confusion and distortion. They capture attention not with representations of "reality," but by exploding notions of time and space through abstraction, disorder, and derangement of the senses. They adapt old technologies to the service of postmodern ideas, and new technologies to the creation of heretofore unimagined art forms.

In "*Seeing Time: Selections from the Pamela and Richard Kramlich Collection of Media Art*," on exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art through January 9, 2000, all notions of time and space get squeezed, chopped up and regurgitated. Some 30 film and video installations, single-channel videotapes, and photo-based artworks — very much in the vein of the recent Bill Viola exhibition, but representing a wide array of styles, personalities, and interpretations — capture the frenzy and hyperkinetic muscularity of turn-of-the-millennium imagery. In this exhibit, even still images seem time warped, as though sliced thinly and put under a microscope, static pieces of moving pictures. Nothing really stands still. Sounds reverberate through the gallery, a cacophony of roars and bleeps and voices, all articulating ideas out of time, conversations out of context, thunder out of boxes.

Out of all this chaos arise, on occasion, paradoxical notions. Mariko Mori imagines in her video work a sublime future in which "the power and energy of the human spirit should unify the world in peace and harmony without any cultural or national borders." One would be hard-pressed to glean such harmonious elements from her futuristic imagery, yet who can say, other than the artist, what will constitute peace of mind in an age vastly removed from the sylvan ideal of Eden?

In this disorienting exhibit, you walk into a room, and its walls disappear, replaced by dreamscapes into which you project your own fears, desires, and understanding of reality. What is one to make of, say, "Sustain," a double-screen performative video projection by Stephanie Smith and Edward Stewart, in which the two are seen sadomasochistically engaged? He lies clothed, submerged in a bathtub; she bends over him, repeatedly blowing air into his mouth and lungs, sustaining him beneath the water. He, dependent on her for life, remains passive, utterly calm. Yet the tension is nearly unbearable: should she fail to deliver him her breath, he, in his complete trusting, would calmly accept his demise. She is his life, his breath, his savior. His time on Earth is hers. ▼

Seeing Time continues through January 9, 2000 at SFMOMA. Admission is \$9. Info: 357-4000 or surf www.sfmoma.org.



Sonia and her band, Disappear Fear, liven up Noe Valley Ministry. See Saturday.

\$20 club passes available at all venues. 9pm-? Info: 621-4455.

Noe Valley Ministry

Recording artist Sonia, acclaimed "Female Artist of the Year" at the 1999 Gay and Lesbian Music Awards, performs with her band, Disappear Fear (John Suchy, Christopher Sellman, and Jason Heiser). Featuring selections from her latest album, *Me, Too*. 1021 Sanchez St. Tix: 282-2317 or from Ticketmaster.

SFMOMA

"You Are Here: Locating the State of Nonprofit and Alternative Spaces," an all-day celebration in honor of the 25th anniversaries of New Langton Arts, SF Camerawork and Southern Exposure. Featuring performances and panel discussions. \$10 (\$6 seniors, students, members). Phyllis Wattis Theater, SF Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St. 357-4000.

King Street Garage

Futura hosts "Noche de Las Brujas," Halloween Latin style. Featuring a costume contest (\$50 in prizes) and CD release for Lou Bega's "Mambo #5" (RCA). With DJs Eduardo and Flores. 174 King St. (at 3rd). Info: 665-6715.

Sun 24

Kilowatt

Shanti's Third Annual [Motorcycle] Ride for Life, a corporate sponsored effort to fight AIDS. Ride to Crane Park, St. Helena, Napa Valley for food, recreation and prizes. \$25 minimum pledge. Meet at 9am. Info: 674-4720.

Noe Valley Ministry

Opening matinee: "Hamlet," a modern-dress version of the Shakespeare classic, performed by the Random Acts Theatre Company, whose mission is to make classic plays relevant and explosive. Featuring an international cast of 11 actors, directed by John Wilk. Gender bending abounds. Environmental soundscape by composer Ken Kearney. \$15 (\$10 for groups of 10 or more). 4pm. Also plays 8pm Fri., Sat., & Sun. thru Nov. 14. 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd St.). Reservations: 337-8963.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Palomar Trail Hike, Pt. Reyes, encom-



Live performance meets the unknown in *Small Bits of Progress Are Being Made* at 848 Community Space. See Friday.

passing views of the Pacific Ocean, Bass Lake, and Alameda Falls. Lunch on Wildcat Beach. It's a moderately strenuous 11 mile hike with a 1,100 ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Carpool cost \$17 to be shared among passengers. Club info: 487-6410 or www.sfhiking.com

Plush Room

Jazz singer Maye Cavallero performs popular selections with Benny Watson on piano and Jeff Neighbor on bass. \$15. 8pm. 940 Sutter St. 885-2800.

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

Suzanne Westenhofer, lesbian feminist comic, demonstrates her intelligence, wit, timing and charm. She's the girl next door, the brazen hussy, the quick-witted pundit. \$20 advance; \$23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 339-1832.

Cafe Du Nord

Good of 'queer country singin' with the elegant Patsy Cline & Her Memphis G Spots. \$5 back door. 9pm. 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Mon 25

Harvey Milk Institute

Classes begin: "Let's Talk About It: Relationships and Sexual Violence," with Maiana Minahal of SF Women Against Rape and Lisa Fujie Parks of CUAUV (1-day only; 6:30-9:30pm; free); and "Fred/Fred & Ginger/Ginger Ballroom Dance Sampler," level

2, with Douglas Mitchell (7 Mondays; 6-7pm; \$91). Info: 552-7200.

Josie's

Comedian Dan Rothenberg hosts "Open Mic Gay Comedy." \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 16th & Market streets. No reservations required.

Tue 26

El Rio

Cabaret: "Hairnetta's Hotspot," hosted by Pippi Lovestocking, with record spinning by DJ Kat. Featuring singing duet Jake & Shell; "7 Levels of Shandyland," starring Sheila & Andy; didgeridoo playing by Rich; The Dollywhackers; operatic juggling by Lissin-n-Hearty, and erotic dance by Vivacious Veronica. \$5. 8pm. 3158 Mission St. (1 blk south of Cesar Chavez). 282-3325.

{ four walls gallery

"Talent show!" A high-energy event involving risk, humor, irony, and the collaboration by visual artists Liz Miller, Nao Bustamante, Cliff Hengst and Brian Storts. They challenge the notion that performance art is a tedious waste of time. \$2. 8:30pm. 3160-A 16th St.

Wed 27

Metropolitan Community Church

Rachel Pepper reads from and dis-

cusses *The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians*. Part of the "Queers Focus on the Family" series. Co-sponsored by A Different Light Bookstore. Free. 8pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: 431-0891.

August Coppola Theater, SFSU

Screening and presentation: "Getting To Know You," directed by SFSU Cinema Department graduate Lisanne Skyler, in which two teens tell their stories in a grimy New York bus station, based on three short stories by Joyce Carol Oates. Featuring in-person appearances by Skyler and the film's producer, Laura Gabbert. The film recently screened at Sundance and the SF Int'l Film Fest. Free. 7pm reception; 7:30pm screening. Fine Arts Bldg., SF State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. Info: 338-1629.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Preview: 42nd Street Moon presents Tony Award-nominated actress Susan Watson and cabaret sensation Meg Mackay in a concert version of the 1971 musical "The Grass Harp," based on a Truman Capote novella. \$12 (preview only). Thru Nov. 14. 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Harvey Milk Institute

Classes begin: "Do-It-Yourself Website Workshop," with Henry Mach (4 Wednesdays; 6:30-9pm; \$100); and "Fred/Fred & Ginger/Ginger Ballroom Dance Sampler," level 1, with Douglas Mitchell (7 Wednesdays; 6-7pm; \$91). Info: 552-7200.

Venue 9

Encore performance: 10 Poets Plus a Mic, a collective of East Bay spoken word expressionists, create a unique fusion of poetry, theater and live jazz. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. 289-2000.

Thu 28

Fairmont Hotel Grand Ballroom

"Raising Spirits," the 1999 UCSF AIDS Health Project's Annual Gala, honoring Regina Aragon, Director of Public Policy for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for her distinguished work in HIV and AIDS advocacy. Entertainment by Paula West. Champagne. 5:30pm supper buffet and wine tasting, plus silent auction. 7:30pm program with MC Gene Burns. Live auction. \$125. Fairmont Hotel (California & Mason streets). Tix: 502-7276.

Stormy Leather

Class: "The Sensual Art of Flogging," presented by Treasure. He'll demonstrate techniques, safety issues, how to read body language, and how to use sensory input as well as sensory deprivation. Bring your floggers. \$20 (pre-registration required). 7-9pm. 1158 Howard St.

Intersection for the Arts

"Up a Tree," an original theatrical installation conceived and created by Dan Chumley, Jonathan Youtt, David Morley and Starr Rose in cooperation with the Monkey Thump Puppet Collective. It utilizes soft-sculptural puppets and the wry style of a native folk tale to expose and interpret the circumstances that are leading to the complete devastation of our forests. Inspired by two young activists, Julia Butterfly, who has maintained an 18-month vigil in a redwood tree, and David Chain, a young Earth Firster who was slain by a felled tree. \$9-\$14. 8pm. 446 Valencia (btwn. 15th & 16th). 626-3311.

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Prime Rib au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish ... \$13.95

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Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers play at the Potrero Hill Festival. See Saturday.

Erin Kasey

Landscaping the heart

by Jim Piechota

Lawnboy by Paul Lisicky; Turtle Point Press, \$13.95

Provincetown author Paul Lisicky's debut novel *Lawnboy* is proving to be a great start for this young talent. The book is a satisfying accomplishment, an engrossing gay coming-of-age story line that's brought to life with compassionate characters set against a Miami backdrop. Curiously, nothing about the book's description on the cover includes anything outright "gay," though it is definitely a gay story. Turtle Point Press is apparently aiming the book at a more widespread audience, in addition to the gay and lesbian readers who are already taking note of it.

The story follows "befuddled" 17-year-old Evan, who is just coming out, and is hired by William, his hunky older neighbor, to tend to his lawn. Subtle insinuations aside, Evan sees William as "a regular fellow. Lonely, dumb, a little fun," and he accepts his offer, desperate to escape an unhappy homelife with his cold, inattentive father and mother.

Mowing lawns turns into steamy sexual interludes for the

pair, and soon Evan has moved into William's small house as his parents practically disown him. Their pairing is sometimes loving, sometimes distant, always troubled. William seems to have intimacy issues, as Evan is never allowed to sleep in his bed with him, and Evan is unsure of his relationship, constantly on the verge of a change of heart.

In opting to focus more on their relationship and its shaky foundation, Lisicky abandons the many opportunities that arise for embellishing gratuitous sex scenes. Instead, he concentrates his efforts on Evan's emotional heart, the newness of his feelings, and at his most poignant, the depth of his loss. The author has gone for the sexy yet sensitive approach.

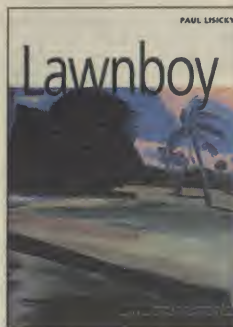
Evan finally hits the road when William becomes relentlessly unresponsive and onerous, heading for Fort Lauderdale, where his secretive bisexual brother Peter lives. Peter's lover-of-convenience Hector ("hypermasculine, yet daffy") gives Evan a crash course about gay life, the good and the bad, in one of the book's comical high points. From a night out on the town in drag to a discussion of his unrequited passion for Peter, Evan comes into his own guided by the

hand of a seasoned veteran.

Feeling his pain

Evan's education is thus fast and effective, but he remains a boy with feeling, and this character trait keeps the book on its literary toes. The wide-ranging color wheel of emotion is the biggest hook in *Lawnboy*: We feel for Evan's plight because we've all been there, young, new to the scene, silly-hearted, carefree, but bruising all too easily.

Lawnboy may lose some readers midway through as it begins to tread some already well-worn paths. Narrative crutches like the panic of AIDS and the familial strife set off by gay offspring are overused. And while many are kind-hearted and funny, most of



Lisicky's characters are nauseatingly gifted with "chiseled" physiques.

Quibbles aside, the author shines when vividly describing Evan's visit to an XXX video arcade ("Doors kept banging shut, then opening, admitting and releasing the hungry"), or when

both attend an underwear party where William's stare draws a young boy toward him "like a calf to a block of salt."

Toward the book's bittersweet though satisfying ending, Evan's self-fulfilling resolution echoes a '90s sentiment felt by many contemporary men looking for love, who must find it inside first. "There was no reason to assume that I couldn't be comfortable by myself," Evan thinks. "All I really needed was a few close friends, a love for my work, and some occasional sex."

Evan's quest for wholeness is laden with equal parts joy and sadness. Still, readers will hope for the best, even as Lisicky's *Lawnboy* lounges just a few rows behind the illusive seat of love. ▼

Literary pleasures

by Andrew Huang

Notes of a Desolate Man by Chu T'ien-Wen; Columbia University Press, \$19.95

By turns humorous and poignant, *Notes of a Desolate Man* is a masterful novel from Chu T'ien-Wen, one of the most esteemed novelists in Taiwan, who has also written screenplays for the world-renowned filmmaker Hou Hsiao-Hsien.

The death of a lover from AIDS triggers a gay man into a series of reflections on love, desolation and mortality. The use of a gay protagonist is more metaphorical than realistic. As a heterosexual writer, Chu uses a male homosexual narrator in order to explore the theme of marginality. Her theme reflects her status as a second-generation Mainland Chinese woman living in Taiwan, and as a writer well-educated in Western culture working in the tradition of Chinese literature.

Fragmented structurally but overflowing with sensual details and erudite allusions, *Notes* quotes from Levi-Strauss,



Schopenhauer, Fellini, and Ozu, and even exercises psychoanalysis on a Michael Jackson album cover. Even though its mammoth inventory of cultural references at times seems overwhelming and implausible for its small-time gay character, the novel still serves as a glimpse into the mind of one of the most outstanding novelist/screenwriters of our time. The pleasure is purely intellectual

here. See what she thinks about Goethe! Catch the references as literary cameos à la Robert Altman films! If this novel is emotionally cold and hard to swallow for readers seeking narrative pleasure, its cultural depth and literary brilliance more than make up for that flaw.

Growing up during her formative years under the influence of China's famed novelist Eileen Chang, the Chinese Gustave Flaubert, Chu displays these writers' quest for the ultimate linguistic/literary perfection. Each word is elaborated to bring out the fullest beauty and nuance of the language. At times, the undertaking plunges into navel-gazing. Still, it's a rare treat for literature lovers to enjoy the flourishes of this wildly gifted writer. The translation, a collaboration of Howard Goldblatt and Sylvia Li-Chun Lin, has its awkward moments where the words lose their original subtext and appear choppy, but it mostly preserves the literary alchemy that Chu is known for. *Notes of a Desolate Man* will undoubtedly astonish readers with its beauty, even through translation. ▼

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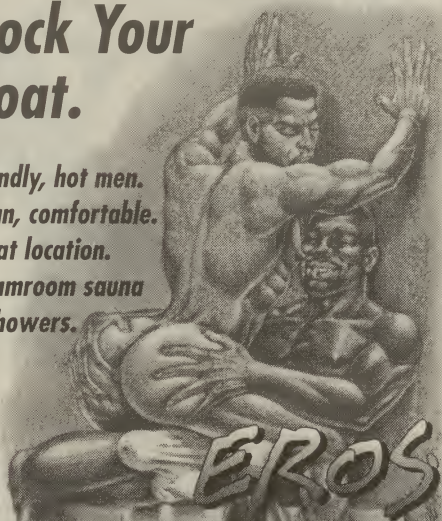


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Dreamgirls

◀ Arts cover

tal behavior. The Dreams then go on to hit the top of charts with their calculatedly softened sound.

A subplot follows a similar musical sanding of the rough edges of an exuberant soul singer inspired by James Brown. Stephen Semien is terrific in the role, managing the character's stage acrobatics, selling his songs, and connecting dramatically with an entertaining authenticity.

The whole cast is solid, but note should also be made of Kylene Parker, Cherelle Fortier, and Vickia Brinkley as the members of the Dreams, Brian Yates as Effie's sensitive brother, and Carmichael "CJ" Blankenship as the Dreams' duplicitous manager.

Dreamgirls is not a musical that turns up much, so kudos to this small suburban theater housed in a shopping mall for taking it on—and pulling it off. ▼

Dreamgirls will run at the Willows Theatre in Concord through Oct. 30. Tickets are \$25. Call (925) 798-1300.



Steven Stephen and Cherelle Fortier in *Dreamgirls*

Judy Potter

*dosing / time / convenience**drug cocktail / work / side effects*

why

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SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

Now listed
among preferred
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government guidelines.¹

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

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*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

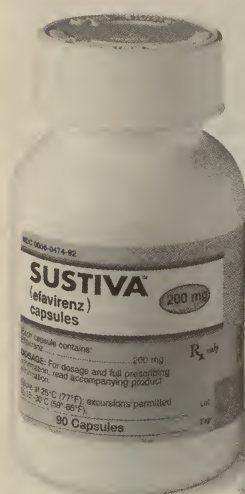
For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>. For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>

1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents: Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 1999.

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SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules Patient Information about SUSTIVA* (sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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DuPont Pharmaceuticals

Wilmington, DE 19880
Issued September, 1998

BOOKS

Sticky situation

by Deborah Peifer

Sleeping Bones by Katherine V. Forrest; Berkley Prime Crime, \$21.95

So you think you know Kate Delafield. You've been following the dyke detective's adventures since she exploded on the scene in the extraordinary *Amateur City* (Naiad, 1984). Kate grew, changed, evolved, and you were right there with her. Whether exploring the horrors of child sexual abuse (*Murder at the Nightwood Bar*), revisiting the red-baiting blacklists of the '50s (*The Beverly Malibu*), or exposing hate crimes (*Murder by Tradition*), all available from Naiad Press), Kate always looked at more than just the immediate crime scene. When Kate attended a horrific reunion of friends she knew from Viet Nam

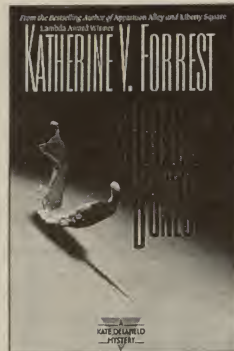
(*Liberty Square*, Berkley Prime Crime), you agonized with her. When she was shot (oh God, that was terrifying) on the second page of *Apparition Alley* (Berkley Prime Crime), you felt as if a good friend were being rushed to the hospital.

You know Kate Delafield. If it's a rule, she obeys, a procedure, she follows. In the latest novel, *Sleeping Bones*, Katherine V. Forrest takes her detective and her readers to a place where things are not what they seem to be, to an unnerving and disorienting world where, just maybe, rules are made to be broken. Let me tell you, until you read *Sleeping Bones*, you don't know Kate Delafield.

The reason I, and my guess is, lots of dykes, started reading lesbian mysteries was our abiding respect and admiration for Forrest's skill as a writer. Her ability to take the police procedural and turn it into a profound exploration of just what it

means to be a lesbian made her mysteries worth multiple readings. That she managed to do so while creating fascinating plots with enough twists, turns, and switchbacks to keep us guessing right through to the end, ought to make clear that Katherine Forrest is a worthy force with whom to be reckoned.

I can't even imagine having the raw courage to take a beloved character and put her through the kind of changes that Kate suffers in *Sleeping Bones*, but Forrest does, and she carries it off with consummate skill. A murder at the famous La Brea Tar Pits is just the kind of sticky situation that Kate is normally able to unstuck with relative ease. Just follow procedure, add a dash of brilliance, and the mystery is solved, the killer apprehended. But this time, the victim has ties to the CIA, the wartime disappearance of the Peking Man fossils, and an inter-



national drama that could lead to World War III. Poor Kate. She doesn't even know enough about paleoanthropology to know that La Brea Tar Pits is both an incorrect name, and a redundant one. It takes the smart-ass daughter of the victim to explain that, because Brea is Spanish for tar, "the correct name is Rancho La Brea." When the CIA invites itself into the investigation, Kate is just

about ready to explode.

Forrest creates extraordinary characters in *Sleeping Bones*. The previously mentioned smart-ass daughter is one, Kate's new partner another. Each tempts Kate to stray from her normally — some might say, rigidly — straight and narrow path. Forrest explores with sensitivity and care the events that cause a woman to question deeply held beliefs. Will Kate stray from her happy relationship with Aimee, or from the rigorous rules of police behavior? By the time Forrest answers these and other, equally profound questions, you'll have spent some serious time thinking about your own beliefs and whether they still work in a changing world. You'll also have been royally entertained by a challenging conundrum. *Sleeping Bones* is a worthy successor to a noble line of mysteries. Don't miss it. ▼

Dispatches from the front lines

'Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America'

by John R. Killackey

In 1981, an article ran in the inside pages of the *New York Times* with the headline, "Rare Cancer Seen in 41 Homosexuals." John-Manuel Andriote references the piece in his chronicle of the impact of the disease, *Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America* (University of Chicago Press). He is sympathetic yet not uncritical as he details the gay community's transformation from disenfranchised isolation into a self-affirming political and social force even while it grappled with illness, death, prejudice, and bigotry.

In the early years of the pandemic, often facing indifference and contempt from government and medical establishments, gay men created their own organizations to deliver basic health care services, share information, and educate its own. The Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York and the Kaposi's Sarcoma Research and Education Foundation (now the San Francisco AIDS Foundation) were both founded in 1982. For Andriote, these organizations, "like so many others in cities and small town across America, represented an effort to provide information, prevent panic, and promote a feeling of 'connection' to the community. They provided life-links for individuals diagnosed with or at risk for AIDS, and they became the nerve centers for a gay community fearful of the medical and political uncertainties of AIDS."

These volunteer-run endeavors evolved into professionally run organizations meeting escalating needs including case management, attendant care, buddy programs, meals, hospice care, counseling, legal services, group housing, financial advocacy, and recreational programs. People living with AIDS played a seminal role in developing these expanded programs. Andriote writes, "Insisting that their voices be heard and their needs considered, they challenged the system to become better than itself."

As the epidemic continued unabated, AIDS service organiza-

tions became more involved in advocacy and raising money. At first, the gay and lesbian community looked to itself for financial support through private dinners, fashion and drag shows, dances, and silent auctions. Before long, wider communities became engaged with walkathons, raves, AIDS rides, and industry-specific events like Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Andriote lauds these efforts, but challenges the AIDS community to be more accountable as the overhead costs for these fundraising efforts multiply.

Advocacy was another area that the gay community and the AIDS organizations galvanized into action out of necessity. Andriote illustrates both the confrontational antics of local ACT UP chapters and the upscale "black tie" efforts of AmFar and the Human Rights Campaign. These grassroots and national efforts eventually resulted in a huge infusion of Congressional funds as well as the revamping of clinical trials for promising drug and treatment strategies. He points out, however, that in attempting to raise these federal dollars and further mainstream other efforts, the AIDS service organizations were "de-gayd." This seemed a shrewd strategy at the time, but in retrospect, the gambit has been "deleterious to the gay civil rights movement."

Stop the in-fighting

With the advent of protease inhibitors and other successful treatment regimes that are presently transforming the disease into a manageable illness, Andriote sees the next formidable task as integrating "HIV care into mainstream health care and social service organizations — and ensur[ing] that all gay people receive appropriately sensitive care whatever their health needs." He urges the current AIDS industry of some 18,000 organizations nationally to stop fighting amongst themselves for diminishing funding, but instead retool services to accommodate people living with AIDS.

Andriote sees the political maturation of the gay community

continuing as it focuses on basic human rights concerns, including legislating anti-discrimination protection, repealing sodomy laws, and securing same-sex marriage and related 'gayby' boom family issues. He claims that some of the same issues that hampered the gay community in the AIDS

struggle still need to be addressed: sexual responsibility and promiscuity, as well as race, class, and gender biases. Throughout the book, he castigates middle- and upper-middle-class white gays who led the initial charges in the AIDS war, but are now withdrawing from the battle lines as the de-

mographics of the disease change. In looking back at the first two decades of this ongoing epidemic, Andriote blends individual stories with organizational histories and community politics. Yet it is the personal narratives that are the most heartfelt. His interviews

page 60 ►

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Sash rush on at the Russian River

Mr. Russian River Leather 2000

by Mister Marcus

Sash fever takes a giant step — from Utica, NY two week-ends ago to the Russian River area in Guerneville — this coming Sunday, October 24, when John Roachat will sash his successor. Unless someone comes out of the woodwork, only three men will be vying for the title, which is in its second year. The trio of contenders consists of Steve Bourasa of Sacramento (Mr. Fife's), Rod Gergen of Sacramento (Mr. River Business), and Mike Keller (Mr. Triple R). Neither the recalcitrant Rainbow Cattle Co. nor anyone else has made any indication of taking part. This is grassroots participation, and the winners will eventually make it to the stage in Chicago at Int'l. Mr. Leather in May.

Thanks to Bob Brunson, Guerneville's leather pride week-end promises to include some heavy hitters in the leather community. Int'l. Mr. Leather 98 Tony Mills will co-emcee with Donna Sachet. Comedienne Shann Carr and disco diva Linda Imperial will entertain during the proceedings. I'm delighted to join the judging panel, consisting of Int'l. Mr. Leather '96 Joe Gallagher, Int'l. Mr. Leather '92 Lenny Broberg, Int'l. Ms. Leather Pam Meyer, Int'l. Mr. Drummer '93 Graylin Thornton, and SF Leather Daddy XI Philip Turner.

So if you're tired of circuit cha-cha parties, boring beer busts, lectures and non-stop nickel & dime-ing and want to give your sling a rest, mosey on up Hwy. 101 and check out the action. Good luck to all the contestants and thanks to John Roachat, Mr. Russian River Leather '99, for a good year!

Meanwhile, back home ...

Last weekend saw a sort of wake-up after the lethargy following both the Folsom and Castro Street fairs. A beachwear party



North Atlantic Leather Boy 2000 Randie Smith (right) hugs his "daddy" after winning the title in Utica, New York on Sunday, Oct. 10.

took place on Saturday afternoon at Daddy's, with skimpy numbers modeled by the bare chest calendar guys. Then came a bus trip to Guerneville, to help Bob Brunson celebrate his 39th birthday. Bob wants to thank Joe Gallagher for the "birthday boy/toy" he sent along, but I suspect Phil Bortolussi probably nailed another title holder or two, as is his wont. Mr. Brunson was nursing a very huge hangover on Sunday morning.

Earlier in the day, there was a large turnout for the memorial service for much loved Franco, and the faithful then attended the Forum's Progressive Dinner, which was not without its exciting moments. Andy Rose and Mario Torrigino deserve a big round of applause for their efforts. Now that Mr. Rose is residing in San Leandro (San Leandro?!), he is obliged to ride the BART rails to his favorite "haunts." Collingwood Park will never be the same!

On Sunday, the Phoenix Uniform Club hosted the beer/soda bust at the Eagle, with uniform shenanigans that saw a good crowd enjoying the unseasonable terrific weather.

In other wor(l)ds

Here's an innovative fund raising effort. The Men of Discipline of DC begin offering today (October 21) the MOD Kidnap benefit, wherein they will kidnap and detain two lucky persons who have registered for the kidnapping program. Those who sign up could be snatched out of their everyday life for 48 hours. The price of this fun is \$25, open to BDSM aficionados in DC, Maryland and/or Virginia who live within a 50 mile radius of DC.

Here's how it works: A short list of 10 persons will be drawn, and all 10 will be placed under surveillance. The two selected will not know when, where or how they will be kidnapped. They'll receive a video of the abduction and the 48 hours at the safehouse. Winners

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, October 21

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, 2000-2400, for only \$6. It benefits Coming Home Hospice.

Weekend, October 22-24

11th Annual Mr. Oklahoma Leather 2000 contest in Tulsa. Most of the action at the Silver Star Saloon — big kahunas from all over judging for the T.U.L.S.A. club.

Pegasus MOC departs from the Castro Theatre at 0930 for the Mendocino-Sonoma coast and Gualala. Bring cash for gas, food, tolls. For more information, call 621-1561 or email: Pegasus-MOC@rocketmail.com.

In Chicago? Quentin Crisp appears at the new Leather Archives & Museum theatre. The show is \$20, and runs October 21-24. Tix at RJ's Video, Unabridged Books, and Eagle Leathers.

Saturday, October 23

The 15 Association stages its Halloween Party. You know the rules, location. BYOB. Guests must arrive with you.

Alameda County Leather Corps (ACLS) celebrates its 6th anniversary, 1800 to 2100, at the Turf Club in Hayward.

Memorial service for a NY legend, Wally Wal-

lace, at 1000, MCC, 446 West 36th St.

Sunday, October 24

Cal Eagles MC "Oktoberfest" beer/soda bust for \$8, with German grub, 1500-1800. For more info, call 267-0560. Leather Daddy Andre & Boy Lance host Leather Pantry 3, with a \$7 beer/soda bust for Project Open Hand, with others scheduled for Nov. 6, 14 and 27.

Ernestine's 2nd Torn Jeans contest and beer/soda bust at The Edge, 1800-2100, \$6, with Mark Paladini and David Friedel hosted by Mr. San Francisco Leather Werner and Mr. Powerhouse BJ Cavnor.

Wednesday, October 27

Boots, leather, & latex at Leather Buddies, 933 Harrison. You know the rules. No cologne! Call 863-HEAD.

The Ring's doors open from 1830-1900 for exhibitionism for men. Call 437-0883 for info.

Thursday, October 28

Halloween at Daddy's. The Lady in Red emcees costume contest, with 1st prize of \$75 and 2nd prize of \$25, from 2000-2400. Contest is at 2200. Get there early. If you've got it flaunt it; if you ain't got it, flaunt it anyway!

FILM

Hard

◀ page 44

don't regret it, and I never will." But Palomaria also points out that he didn't have to perform some of the most difficult moments, like the bondage and torture scenes, which fell to the gay hustlers hired to play tricks and victims.

"The hustlers were willing to do things almost no actor would do," Palomaria says. "And that gives the film an intense veneer of reality." Palomaria also says, however, that he himself wouldn't necessarily shy from the very situations that often put gay men at risk.

"Danger is enticing. It's exciting to be with a stranger and see where the night takes you," says Palomaria, his deep voice a sultry whisper. "When you have that opportunity, it's a great feeling. I think once the sex drive kicks in, people just lose their mind. The flip side of that, of course, is that you can end up in a really bad situation."

Huckert says this is precisely why he made *Hard*. "*Hard* is not a positive role model film. It's a wake-up call about how people get picked up and get killed, and how gay policeman really get treated," he says.

In prepping his role, Palomaria spent a week with LA homicide detectives. "You do feel the homophobia around all those badges," he says. "And you do keep quiet."

But quiet is the opposite of what Huckert has in store for his first *Hard* product spin-off — a DVD of sex outtakes, many featur-

Malcolm Moorman in *Hard*

ing Palomaria, who is not the least bit nervous about making viewers salivate in another medium.

"I'm actually very shy and reserved," he says, with feigned innocence. "But when people come up to me and say they like me in

the movie, I think, 'Yeah. This is good. This is good.' I'm proud of the way I look. If somebody wants to put that on a video or if it ends up on the Internet and people are downloading me, I wouldn't care. Live it up." ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

will not be harmed in any way, and MOD will try to fulfill their fantasies as much as possible. After the 48 hours, winners will be returned to the location from which they were snatched. And the winners may cancel their involvement at any time with a pre-arranged safe word. All this will benefit Brother Help Thyself and the Servicemen's Legal Defense Fund.

To receive a registration form, email: modkidnap@linuxmail.org

or write to MOD Command Central, PO Box 21090, Washington, DC 20009.

In other news, the Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) are gearing up for IB Rendezvous 2000 (Feb. 18-21, 2000), and are soliciting applications by nonprofit groups to be beneficiaries. Deadline is Monday, November 15. Call 415-541-5000, or send an email message to: info@bosf.org. Or write to BOSF, 2215-R #266, San Francisco, CA 94114.

In mourning

Our community is enduring

the loss of two very productive members: In Atlanta, David Armstrong, a leather activist who was Mr. Southeast Drummer 1989. He had long served his community and was very productive in all his endeavors. In San Francisco, Hal Heller passed away last Tuesday, and his contributions to the leather/sm/biker community will not be forgotten. The communities in both cities are saddened by this turn of events. But both men will be long remembered as the epitome of leather pride and all it implies. ▼

a taste of leather

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FILM

Mistaken gay identity



Blake Little

We think we've spotted another trend in formulaic movies this fall. First there was the odious *Happy, Texas*, in which two heterosexual criminals impersonate gay men — har de har har. Now there's *Three To Tango*, in which Charles (Dylan McDermott, right) hires Oscar (Matthew Perry, left) to spy on his mistress, Amy (Neve Campbell, center). Charles believes Oscar is gay; Amy thinks he's gay; his friends, family, even strangers think he's gay. When he's honored as Chicago's Gay Professional of the Year, Oscar has to decide whether to come out of the closet... as straight. This is really what we call High Concept. The Warner Bros. movie opens Friday in the Bay Area, and probably closes soon thereafter. ▼

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photo: Greg Day, model: Cole Tucker, www.mandreams.com

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PARTING GLANCES

Cruisen On Muni Sat Night 9-18
We cruised each other on Muni train. You left at Civic Center. You: black jeans, white tee, roper boots, blond flat top, Me: goatee, cap, grey sweat jacket. Call me! ☎ 9500

Blond Missed Hairy Stud-
Daddy's 9/18, Saturday after midnight, on upper deck. Me: blond in leather pants, tight white shirt, caught by other. ☎ 9501

Steve? Call Me. I Liked You
We met on Friday 9/10 at B.V. Park. Me, sexy long hair, handsome, young Brazilian. You, nice cute GWM. After hard sex, you say, I love this big tool. You've boyfriend? My tool and my soul will be only 4 you. ☎ 9503

Yankies V. Red Sox, Mrk Safeway
Tuesday, 9/14, 9:45pm, check stand. You: cute Asian, Yankee jacket, from N.Y. Me: WM, behind you, blue jacket, grew up Red Sox fan. Love to meet, talk baseball & more. ☎ 9504

John, Black Miata Sun 9/19, 11:55pm
Someone hit your car, I helped you fix it so you could drive it. I wanted to ask you out, wish I would have then. Want to have dinner? ☎ 9505

A Streetcar Named Desire
Saturday night, 9/18, Pittsburgh Bart. You got on at Montgomery, sat down with me and read "A Streetcar Named Desire." You left me at 12th Street with parting glances. Call ☎ 9506

Umberto!
I drove you home to Castro, Cuban jatt. How did I let you get away? Please call. ☎ 9502

Outside Eagle Sun 9/12 7:00pm
You: Luis, Latino parking truck. Me: Jim, older guy with white beard. We talked. You went to meet friends. I forgot to give you my number. ☎ 9507

GoldGym, Bed Bath & Beyond Fri 9/17
You: tall, hot muscle dude. Me: short brown hair, blue top, black tights. I scared you, telling you "you look fantastic!" You do! Can we stop scarfing each other? Date? ☎ 9508

Stunning Guy On Market Street & Powell @ 1:45pm Thurs 9/23
You & friend passed myself & friend. You: 20 something 6', cute smiled & looked. Me: 32, shaved head, basketball Jersey. I indicated no time to stop most interested. ☎ 9600

Dennis From Boston
We met in the Pilsner Fri., Sept. 17th. You are moving here in Oct. Please call me. Rob. ☎ 9602

Starbucks Mollystones Calif. St. 9/20 8:15am
you tall, hunky, glasses, goatee, b.b. cap. Me, s/p hair, goatee, shirt and tie. We exchanged several glances-let's meet there again. ☎ 9601

Nantucket & Shorts
Sat 9/18 You-leaving the Gap downtown-Me s&p mustache... 40+ polo short bag. Eyes connected. Let's complete the transaction. David-call ☎ 9603

Kirk: Folsom Street Fair
You had brat marked on your tummy. I was daddy playing with genital whip. I left before saying goodbye. Want to pick up where we left off? ☎ 9604

Castro St. Fair, Hot N' Hunky, 9:30pm
Was at window table with friend. Kept turning back and smiling at you, but your "to-go" order was ready before I was! Waved at you as you left. You smiled and waved back! You're cute! I'd like to get to know you! Please Call ☎ 9700

Argentine Restaurant October 1
You were with a friend. I sat at the bar and we noticed each other. You left and turned on Octavia near Hayes, wanna meet? ☎ 9701

Keith-Steamworks Mon. Aft. 9-28
I wanted to fuck your hot little butt so bad! Our timing was off. I'm not just big & thick. I'm good stamina, repeat action, short down time. Call me, Dean. ☎ 9702

Ran Into You @ Oak/Divisadero
You: Latin (Asian?), gorgeous, khaki shorts. Me: runner. We exchanged hellos. Wanted to talk more, but was running. Interested? I'd love to meet you. ☎ 9703

Baker/Beach Sept 28 Tuesday
We are tall, stashed, very tanned and handsome men you were with mature woman. We kept exchanging glances. Let's meet and be naked together. I won't be so shy. Dinner? ☎ 9704

Basked In Your Gaze On Bart
From Civic Center until you disembarked at Glen Park late afternoon of the Folsom St. Fair. Me: White t-shirt, dark hair. You: Wht tank-top, sandy. Both: glasses, with friend. ☎ 9705

Different Light Sun Oct 3rd
You, white cap, blue shorts checking out tg books. Would love to show you my big collection of tg books & femme fashions. ☎ 9706

10/2 Fillmore Morning
You: Silver hair w/black jacket & pants WM, me: Black sweater AM, crossing each other on Fillmore St. I was rush to Japan town to meet my friends. We looked back to each others. Want a cup of coffee? ☎ 9707

Mike, Pwrexchange 10/4/99 3:45am
You: 6'7" nice guy! "God had a sale!" Wasn't able to get you my card- please give call! David-frisky guy. ☎ 9708

CCSF, K-line, Walgreens
Just a few places we've seen each other. You: Asian, very lean, cute, tennis racket. Me: dark blonde, handsome, shy. Let's get past mutual cruising and talk. ☎ 9709

Castro St. Fair- Twice Cruised
First time- 16th & Guerrero, second time at fair. You: black tee, shorts, glasses, goatee. Us: 2 bears liked what we saw. You were interested and so are we. Call! ☎ 9710

Market Street @ Noon, Sat. Oct. 2
You: driving down Market Street. White male in a white BMW convertible. 325i. Me: Green Range Rover, we looked at each other. Would like to connect. ☎ 9800

Castro Street Fair Bead Dick Toss
You: fatigues, no shirt, goatee. Me: long goatee, camoflages suit, tattoos. I noticed you several times and liked what I saw. Would like to meet. Call Me. ☎ 9806

Waterworld
Spoke to you about your tattoos as I was leaving. Didn't have pen & paper. Would love to meet again. Call me. Clarke. ☎ 9801

Embarcadero Center Oct 7th 3-3:30pm
Davis Street btwn. Emb. 1 & 3, at one point we walked side by side. Not the first time we have crossed. Would you like to meet? ☎ 9802

Randy At Daddy's And The Edge
You: blond, smooth, flat top. You liked my hairy bod. Love yours, too! Again? No BF this time!! ☎ 9803

Market & 16th 10/6/99 3:45pm
You drove by in a green Honda. Me yellow shorts, grey sweat shirt, shaved head, goatee, want a closer look? I do. ☎ 9804

WaterGarden Sun. Oct. 2
You hot buffed Hispanic. I was the Hispanic guy who's room you walked into, #6 you made a certain request and I agreed to it. You said, you would be back, Give me a chance. ☎ 9805

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Confused
Learn more about yourself your sexual desires. You 18-19 clean hygiene, HIV-, honest, serious, all races. No fat, fems or clowns. ☎ 9509

HIV- Slim Or Muscle
I'm a designer known as "D.L.B's" mens lingerie, g-string to body suits different types of fabrics. Young attractive males for sexual safe play 18-24. ☎ 9510

Politically Incorrect
WLM 43, 6', 155lbs. Likes: out of shape, smokers, red meat, beer, facial/longish hair, IL/Polk area, over 38, sexy, kissing affection. Dislikes: gyms, upscale places, drugs, Republicans, yuppies. ISO men who share some of my views. ☎ 9511

Big Hearted Country Guy Seeks
Spiritual masculine guy to share mountain property 2 hrs. north of S.F. Me: 45, average looks, medium build. You: honest, young at heart, adventurous, open to LTR? ☎ 9512

Attractive Latino
34yo/o, goodlooking, dark hair, brown eyes 5'7", 150#, goatee, professional, looking for GWM bet. 26-40yo, for friendship more. Like to do movies, dinner, travel, biking, hiking etc. Call me. ☎ 9513

Black On Top
WM 36, 5'9" 190lbs bb 32" waist, intelligent, passionate seeks level headed BM, top, under 50, for friendship, pleasure or? ☎ 9516

Older GWM Seeks Younger Friend
For ongoing friendship, poss LTR. You are 18-40 and can enjoy being with an attr man of 75 both in and out of bed. ☎ 9517

Retired Prof GWM 5'8 130 Broad
Interests HIV- ISO younger small bottom, who can appreciate an older man's supportive role. I want to devote my many resources to making you happy. Let's talk. ☎ 9519

Rope Bondage And Domination
Muscular blonde 32yo GWM seeks top or bottom for safe play and friendship. I'm goodlooking, sincere, masochistic. Pluses: Asian, under 40, exclusively top. ☎ 9605

E. Bay Guy Needs Guy
GWM 48, Italian, hairy handsome, ISO fun and/or ltr 35-50, any race. ☎ 9713

Pick Me!
Friendly GWM ISO one special slim GAM to converse, caress, cuddle and coddle. I'm 40, 5'11" 168, ready to take the time to know you and your favorite flavor pop tart. ☎ 9518

Spunk Me
Cute little frat boy 22, blonde hair green eyes, 5'10", 155# gym body needs over the knee action from dominant big brother 18-35. Spank me in briefs, boxers, jock-strap, or diapers. Possible relationship/ house boy position available. ☎ 9606

Gay Artist I Am Looking For
Gay Artists in various mediums, to get together to discuss art or for fun and good times. Please reply. ☎ 9607

Latin And Hispanic Men
I am looking for Hispanic and Latin men who are good looking or well-hung for fun and good times. ☎ 9608

Italian Men I Worship
The ground that you walk on and the air that you breathe. Imagine what it would be like when we get together. ☎ 9609

The Best You'll Ever Meet
Hot handsome sexy great shape GAM 36yo 165# solid lean muscle. Full of fun & creative. ISO sincere fun & muscular male any race under 38yo with 8+ for great time & friendship. HIV-. ☎ 9610

Young Handsome Russian
26yo hot handsome intelligent Russian seeks other Russians or Europeans for the common passion in life and sex. You know what I mean. ☎ 9611

Santa Rosa Golden Oldie
Wants to meet over 60 bl/gay a little over weight, over sexed, very kinky, top/ btm who drinks, smokes younger ok. My place anytime. ☎ 9612

Where Are All The Nice Guys?
Real cute masculine GAM. I'm a nice guy, boy next door type you can bring home to meet mom. ISO similar masculine good-looking GWM around 20's-30's for LTR. ☎ 9613

Please Go On To Another Ad...
Unless you're gonna shoot the really hefty load that proves I've done so much better than your usual cocksucker at processing your meat, size material, uncut a plus! ☎ 9614

Free Beer
Drink beer while I follow your oral orders. Slim masculine WM 42 seeks dominant slim guy from 18 to around 40 who enjoys attention. ☎ 9615

Seeking...
Rope bondage master, ISO serious masochist for partnership, who enjoy clothing, spanking, flogging et al for exploration, pain & pleasure. You be in shape. I'm 5'10", 185lb. I'm friendly & experienced. Serious only. ☎ 9616

Friendship And Sex
Seeking both. Me: BM 50 top educated prof. You: WM 50-60 bottom easy going. Let's have dinner, drinks, smoke, conversation, and good sex. Pls be under 5'10", beefy, and no beard, sensitive nips A+. ☎ 9515

Are There Any GBMs Out There?
Who believe in settling down w/o setting a pace. You: GWM 35yo, 5'6", 150lb. You: GWM 28-39yo, proportionate, intelligent, affectionate. Let's see where this goes! ☎ 9617

African American Cutie
Educated 28, 5'6", 170, seek a LTR/friendship w/guys 23-35 who are HIV- down to earth, intelligent & honest. I enjoy movies dancing, dinner, beach walks, cultural events, fairs, serious only!! ☎ 9514

Asian Master Sought By GWM
Become lord of the castle- home in Hollywood Hills with pool & jacuzzi has empty master bedroom for dominant Asian to rule & train & own GWM slave. ☎ 9618

It's All Good! Hip-Hop 2 Opera!
30yr. Latin male, cute, smart, ISO boyfriend into arts, music, used book store, skateboarding; I'm 5'9" 150lb. Hairy with dimpled chin. ☎ 9711

Wanted Mature Man To Service
If you are in you're late, 50's to 60's, clean, trim, HIV- and interested in having your cock service on a weekly basis, call me! Your place no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 9712

Asian Masters
I wish to be dominated sexually by Asian men. Forced me to suck and be fucked for long time. I'm GWM 6' 165lbs. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 9714

Winter Is Coming/Mate Wanted!!
ISO for ltr displaying lots of affection, honesty and good times. Outgoing GAM seeks fun & outgoing types between 25-40 years. ☎ 9715

HIV+ Total Top Wanted
Capricorn, Cancer, or Virgo- needs black hair, brown eyes, moustache, any race. HIV+, Pittsburgh bottom, Taurus, 37, blue, brown, 6 foot, 185 seeks suburban loving boyfriend, let's snuggle by the fire, play house! ☎ 9716

Canadian Mountie In Bay Area?
31yr GAM seeking to meet Canadian Mountie. I know it's a long shot, but who knows? ☎ 9820

BAR TALK

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CATEGORY

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sweet Spicy & Sensuous
GWM, HIV-, 41/5'9", 175lbs, reddish brn/blu. ISO GWM or GWM, HIV-, 35-45, who enjoys movies, dining out, & kissing & cuddling. For a great date. Pls. call ☎ 9717

Looking For A Nice Stable Man
Who's sexy, in decent shape, HIV+, 35-50, to drive crazy & unwind with. I love sex, playing hard & soft, kissing, talking. I'm tall, 38, HIV+, nasty & nice. No drugs. ☎ 9718

Good-looking Latin 28
I'm 5'6", 165lbs, stocky, muscular, dark features, top. I'm looking to meet Latinos or Whites under 40 for friendship, maybe more. ☎ 9719

Tri Valley Romance Or Just Fun
42yr old, tall, dark, HIV+, Irish/Finnish looking for younger HIV+ guy for fun. Outdoors, in bed, or over coffee. Love books, classical music, movies & fun. ☎ 9720

Black Stud ISO Cute Whiteboy
I'm 26, 5'10" 160lbs, gym fit, top. You are 21-35 blue or green eyed, clean cut fit bottom. No piercings, tattoos, n/s, n/d. Must be masc, sensitive, sensual. ☎ 9721

Handsome Italian
40, 6'2", 185lbs, well-endowed into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV- Latin man who is honest, romantic and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9722

Heaven Looking For Angles
Hot, mature Latin seeks men for dating, friendship, good times. Me: tall, handsome, dark, many interests. You: 30-40, cute, outgoing. ☎ 9723

HIV+ Ready To Settle Down
53yo, HIV+ Worldly, well mannered, activist, warm, nonpossessive, hug-gable, workout, 5'11", vers-bim, shaved head, hot kinky sex, quiet times. You: want it, honest, no games, any age/race (like younger) n/s, l/d, no dependencies. ☎ 9724

"Looking For Quality Man"
Me: sincere, happy Italian guy, 42, 180 profit. Creative HIV- warm heart, honest, regular guy. You: similar qualities, n/s, n/d not Mr. Perfect and not Mr. Nightmare, should we meet? ☎ 9725

Ready To Take A Chance?
Hot, bearded, pierced, tattooed daddy (fit 50, 165#, 5'10") seeks HIV+ lean, toned, handsome, masculine, tactile, versatile, romantic n professional GWM, 30's-40's, with sense of humor & nasty streak. ☎ 9726

Intelligent And Esoteric
Seeks similar for friendship and/or LTR. Me: 5'8", 150lbs, thin, no tendon, intense. You: weird, skinny/thin a plus, not concerned with person's ethnicity, enjoy intellectual stimulating conversations. ☎ 9807

Like Making Things Happen?
WM, masc, top, 56, looks 40's, slim, HIV-, wants permanent LTR with petite, sensitive, caring AM, 30-40. Must be emotionally open, able to talk about feelings, unafraid of intimacy. ☎ 9808

Handsome Greek In Texas Seeks
Older, successful, nice gentleman for companionship, LTR. Me: 30's, very attractive, good body, educated, professional, giving, trusting, affectionate, fun. Make you look, feel good. A mutually beneficial relationship. Let's talk. ☎ 9809

Attractive Euro-American
Goodlooking, professional, dark hair/eyes 6ft, 175 seeks Asian, Latino bottoms for life, love, adventure. N/s/n/d. ☎ 9810

18 To 24? Ideal!.....
For incestuous fling (sucking/rimming/piss)/w/ trim/attr undaddysque dad 71; looks maybe 59; still get calls from ex boyfriends to suck them off! ☎ 9816

Your LTR Search Ends Here!
Young at heart, well-maintained, professional, GWM, 37, 5'6", 145#, cute, healthy, brnzht. Creative, funny, generous, intelligent, passionate. Dinner & show or romantic weekend getaway? Please be sincere considerate, adventurous. ☎ 9811

Full Service Cock Sucker...
Wanted by senior, verbally abusive S.F. man. His home, days ok. Weekly sessions. Prof. person. ☎ 9812

Looking For Mr. Daddy
33, WM, 5'9", 195, East Bay, attractive, blond, goatee/beard. You: 35yo+ for sexual adventure/relationship possible. Pluses: beard, mustache, hairy, s/p grey, hairy. ☎ 9813

What's Cooking
31yr GWM looking for someone who can cook and is interested in sharing a love of gourmet dining on savory cuisines. ☎ 9814

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking 34yo attractive Latino. 5'7", 150# dark hair goatee, professional, looking for GWM-between 26-39yo for friendship, traveling, hiking, biking. Call me. ☎ 9815

Cool Guy
Professional, masculine Asian, 52, 5'8", 155, seeking lean, gym-toned, clean shaven WM with positive attributes for adventurous companion or more. Enjoy the outdoors, running, ethnic foods, workouts, arts, films, and you? ☎ 9817

Tired Of Being Single?
Shy GM 33, 5'9", 160lbs not into bar scene. Professional looking for GWM 30-43 who is relationship oriented. I'm, 155lbs educated & you too. Call if interested. ☎ 9819

GAM Looking For Sincere GWM
30-43 who is relationship oriented. I'm, 155lbs educated & you too. Call if interested. ☎ 9819

How About This?
Energetic, GWM, 30, 6', 175#, brnzht loveable, interesting and very cute. Enjoy most everything except Country and Rap music. Seeking light eyes, sports oriented man for dating. No fats, fems, bi's. Interested? ☎ 9821

GBM 6'3", 175lbs
You: A+, handsome, stable, mature also honest, open minded and athletic. Foreigner of any ethnicity A+ friendship and more. ☎ 9822

Submissive Boy/Son Sought
Healthy and imaginative 52yo GWM seeks submissive boy or son to age 40. All races. Progressive relationship possible. ☎ 9823

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Spank Me
Cute little frat boy 22 needs over the knee action from a dominant big brother 18-37, possible relationship, blond hair, blue eyes, 5'10, 150#, gym body, call today. ☎ 9520

Body Exploration And Touch
My expert hands will massage your well-fit body and create moments of intense pleasure. Me: attractive, masseur, 30's ISO good looking guys to exchange body touch and enjoy sensuous exploration. ☎ 9521

Excellent Man In Bed For You
I'm very hot, horny and excellent in bed. Let's do marathon sex and you will enjoy every second of it. WOW!!! GRR!!! ☎ 9522

Latin Hole For Black Fucker
Latin boy looking for black guys to fuck my little hole 27yo 5'11" 155# cute guy. ☎ 9626

Back Rides
Stud top wants to meet masculine bottoms. Me: HIV+ 6'2", 200#, hairy, hung, 40yo aggressive top. You: Under 40yo, HIV+, in-shape, deep throat, and talented ass. ☎ 9523

Give Me A Good Ride
Well built top/vers, hung big is looking for well built men (20-30's), hairy to sit on my face and cock for a good ride. ☎ 9524

Ball Worship
My 2 huge low hangers are waiting for your hot mouth and tongue. Me: attrac GWM, 46, 6'5" 250lbs. You: attrac GM (White, Asian, Latin), 18-35, slim. ☎ 9525

In Shape Black Bottom
Seeks to serve tops, raunch, kink, sleaze, dominant, aggressive, verbal, avail wk-end, some eves. ☎ 9619

Asian/Filipino Bottom Wanted
Hot GWM top wants you for love making sessions. Fit body, 5'8" 165#, 36yr. Let's do it, call. ☎ 9620

Shut-Up And Fuck
34, 5'10" 195lb blond/blue muscle fuck, wants good looking masculine men to pump full of squirt. Also to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 9621

Exhibitionist
Enjoy strutting your stuff? Showing off? Being admired? Walking around naked get you stiff? Handsome GWM, 45, tall and trim, enjoys watching--gay, bi, str8. Erotic massage optional. ☎ 9622

Mature Deep Throat Wanted
GWM 50, 5'7", 145# bearded, ripe pits, smart, honest, responsible, HIV- seeks hirsute GWM 55+ any size/shape for mass-attention and your bearded face in my crotch. N/snd. ☎ 9623

Seeking Guy For Fun & Friend
GWM, 45, 145, 5'7" in a LTR, looking for Asian or Latin for hot early morning or daytime fun. Do you like to kiss, hug, lick & have great sex? ☎ 9624

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The maximized load(s) you shoot-maybe your biggest ever-with my world class cocksucking at work! Give your dick brimming balls a break. Try me tonight! ☎ 9625

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A1 Oral Service- Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocity. HIV-. ☎ 9628

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I Want Your Dick
Lean well hung boys 30s-40s unload with great cocksuckin' dad 48 my place in SF, BL/W/Lat. Facial hair, active face fuckin' A+. Repeat service for top shooters. ☎ 9630

ISO Playmates
Healthy poz guy seeks 2 to 3 others for group fun. Me: 43, 5'9", 160, brn/gm, good looking, lean muscular body. Heavily oral. My place is fine. In-shape guys only. ☎ 9735

Dominant Master Sought, 39
165lbs, hairy, tats, goatee. Seek same master for training. AM versatile-submissive. Wants limits expanded. ☎ 9727

I Give Head & Bend Over For
Horny uncult dick dicked men 25-45. Mexicans & Latinos make my 9" dick hard & my mouth water. I'm 39, in-shape HIV-, 6', 190#, White. My place in Hayes Valley. ☎ 9728

Intense French
GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Wild but not into "tricky French games". I live in S.F./Paris. ☎ 9729

Tall Handsome Passionate HIV+
44, 6'3" tall 185lbs brn/gm med hairy HIV+ bottom 50. Bay sks: height weight proportionate, well hung, top, 7+ thick for open ltr, hairy+ take a chance. ☎ 9730

I Love Smelly Uncut Cock!
Attractive White boy, mid-30's, loves smelly uncut cock. If you're Asian or Latino, 20s-30s, & have a nice uncult dick, I'll suck it. ☎ 9731

Latino Or Filipino Top Wanted
SBM, 39, 6'1" seeking a Latin or Filipino top for safe fun. Any age. Let's meet & have fun. ☎ 9732

Pissers Wanted
Oversexed, thirsty senior wants your non stop golden liquid. I'm 6'170#, 77"uncult. You're any age, weight, color. Full service given. HIV-. ☎ 9733

"Bitch, Fuck Me!"
Hairy, GWM wants it hard from the rear. ☎ 9734

Slave Training
Masculine, mature experienced master ISO muscular submissive GWM 30-50 to train for his pleasure. Total obedience a must. ☎ 9736

Big, Husky & Pleasantly Fat
SBM 45yo, 5'11" seeks big & fat men his size or bigger only for versatile, uninhibited sex. Dildo play a plus. ☎ 9737

Hot Oil Erotic Massage/Hot Tub
White bi male 6'210 ex-military, looking for in shape guys 20-40 to pamper and spoil very passionate and oral lay back & enjoy. ☎ 9738

Needs Attention, Please
6 1/2"x5 1/2" hard cut poker, looking for gay male that needs facial and/or rearing by 6'200# average GWM 50's, HIV- smoker, nongym, aromas ok. ☎ 9831

Natural Or Buffed Beefy Butts-
Cheeks soothed and smoothed by oral massage. palms, thumbs, and goatee. Very private, sane, shy guys will be able to relax here. I love eating ass. Give a call. ☎ 9825

Sexy WM For Asian
35, 5'10", 160#, 8", cut, top, healthy, horny, WM seeks slim smooth Asian bottoms in S.F. Week-day, afternoons. ☎ 9826

Oral Slave Needed
50yo/5'8", 155lbs slim HIV- White male seeks gay male 35yo/6 to 60 slim HIV- To suck his 7 1/2 uncult and eat his hairy ass. ☎ 9827

Role Reversal
Dominant dad, 60, 5'10", 185, bearded, hairy. Looking for son/or to take charge, turn me into your bottom dad. ☎ 9828

Dick Size Doesn't Matter!
No, it needn't be "long enough to reach the ground..."(Lincoln), but the better I've sucked you off the bigger your loads--the proof of the pudding! ☎ 9829

Dad Spanks Bottom Boys
Light and erotic to heavier. Novices welcome. Dad- GWM, 46, 6'5" 250lbs. Limits expected. You: attractive GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. ☎ 9835

Latino Seeks Blonde Top
Latino 40yrs 220lbs, goodlooking, muscular, masculine HIV- looking for a blonde top 25-40 skinny a plus others many respond also. ☎ 9830

Rough And Ready Top
Lt 50's, 5'10", 185, shirt silver/gray, goatee. If you've got a willing hole, the rest doesn't matter. ☎ 9832

Sexy SFWM Provides Asian Stud
Service to slim smooth young sexy Asian bottoms. I am 5'10", 165#, Italian, 8"cut. I will rim your ass & fuck you hard. ☎ 9834

None Of The Above But Need Sex
Horny, but not horse hung, toned or young? Marin GWM, 50, HIV+, 5'10", 160lbs, s/p hairy and stache, uncult. ISO bio buddies. Will travel. Recip. appreciated, but not required. ☎ 9833

Cocksucker For You
Looking for tall vgi men to pleasure. Me: 5'8" s/p hairy, short mustache, great mouth, hairy legs, cute, stocky. UB: 5'10" +, nice cut dick. Aroma ok, nd, ns. ☎ 9834

FETISHES

Nazi & Flogging, Aryan, 25
Skinhead in a derby jacket, ski-mask deserves severe flogging, hanging scene. Dig chokes, punks, sadistic tops. ☎ 9526

Grey Or Craig Call Again
Muscular Latin fit top seeking submissive ff bottom. You answered my ad, machine cut off your number call again. ☎ 9527

ISO Huge, Flexible Hole To FF
This 6'2", 59yo WM w/hairy arms wants ff, bottom with wide or deep asshole. UB WM/LM, thin or hairy build, under 44yo. ☎ 9528

Bi-Curious SS Seeks WM 66-70
My fantasy is on my knees, you grab back of my head and fast fuck my virgin throat pulling out and jerking off your load on my face. ☎ 9529

Bondage Top
Experienced bondage top, 41, 5'8", 155, HIV-, good-looking, masculine, seeks submissive, masculine, in-shape guy for erotic bondage and play. Limits respected. Safe, discreet, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. Bi okay. ☎ 9530

Work My Nipples Hard
48yo bisexual Arab/P.R. wants rough nipple work while stroking my big head. Will talk dirty to you, spit on your face. Then suck/fuck your smelly asshole. You, up to 45yo and in shape. ☎ 9531

Hot Leather Scene
Hot, 33yr old, smooth, muscular, leather top into bdsm, cbt, toys, ff, kink is looking for a few good men to submit to him and worship his hot body. ☎ 9631

Masculine Mostly Straight
WM 55 wants on knees up close watching you j/o a load on my face or sit on my chest and paint my face with your cum. ☎ 9632

Show Me Your Boxers
GWM 40, has big fetish for GWM 18-25 into boxers, let's play in them. Come on boy, show them too me. ☎ 9633

Spankings In San Jose!
Erotic spankings for boyish looking men aged 18-35. Bend over for safe intense fun. Chubby ok. I'm 43 ☎ 9634

Man Smells Turn Me On!
Love to sniff, lick, suck, rim, service. ☎ 9635

Attn All Cowboys & Mexican Men!!!
If you're @ my age or younger, like to take charge & we go there, I won't say no to you or your friends. I'm 34, 5'10", 170 # brn/blue. ☎ 9639

Feet Sheer Socks Dress Shoes
Attractive Latino 33, 5'11", 190, Virgo, size 12 shoe, n/s, n/d, dark features. Would like to meet Latinos, Whites, into same fetish. Under 38. No games. ☎ 9636

Over The Knee Spanking Needed
Authoritative lecture, old-fashioned corporal punishment (w/hand/pad-diebat) on the seat of my pants, underwear & bare bottom (w/ pants/shorts pulled down) required to make me behave, GWM 40's needs pants down discipline. Thank you, Sir! ☎ 9637

Bottom In A Uniform?
Enjoy a raw, fast, stand-up back door pounding by an ugly but hung East Bay top, mustache, husky build A+. Outdoors? 6am? Midnight? Parked car? Open up. ☎ 9638

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I'm GWM 55 with big hands, wrist want GWM 40+ FFB with wide hole for exploration and fun. ☎ 9837

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Latin, stocky, smooth, baby face seeks clean, attractive guys- all shapes and sizes- into fingering, massage, rimming, masturbation, role-playing, voyeurism, one-on-one, threesome+group games, threeway relationships. ☎ 9740

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Bondage Top
Experienced bondage top, 45, 5'8", 155, attractive, seeks submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 25-45, for erotic bondage and play. Safe, discreet. S.F., East Bay. ☎ 9838

Sanoma County Body Worship
Cute, slender guys 18-30 will be thoroughly appreciated by this nice-looking, healthy, generous, fun, middle-aged GWM. Daytimes only. Your place, mine, or my van. No reciprocity necessary. ☎ 9839

Belcybuttons
Into big outies on beefy White guys, 35+, in S.F. or Peninsula, to suck & cum on me. Me: GWM, 46, lean, great chest, hairy, cut, horny, attractive +, fun! ☎ 9840

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Sado-scat-men, cheesy uncults, rowdy throat-fuckers, serviced by hairy, tattooed, buzzed, bearded gym bod ranch guy, cum, skat, piss, spit, ho, v.a. strapping, 40+. ☎ 9841

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College Football Fan?
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Out There

◀ page 38

pornography, not wanting to cause any lust in President Carter's heart." Do they do that on the construction site when he's building houses for Habitat for Humanity?

The Big Sleazy

Out There interrupts our usual programming to whisk you away to the city of New Orleans, where people like to refer to San Francisco as their "sister city that married better!"

Photographer **Jim James** was just there, brought back these pics (he shot 18 rolls), and reports that NO, like SF, is a big party town with a colorful, multi-culti history. Both places also have lots of low, cloudy, moisture in the air. One's hot, one's cold, but the visual effect is the same.

A quiet place

Sandwiched right in between these two bawdy dives is a quiet entrance to a stairway that leads to a quiet little sex toy/video arcade. Similar to the ones here, the same "art films" mostly, but the booths are much bigger — and air-conditioned, thank God.

The pic reproduced here was taken at a strip joint called the Mississippi River Bottom — JJ reports gorgeous male strippers, both black and white. Under the direction of **Fernand Jackson**, who also strips, these guys are full of wild energy and acrobatic moves, frequently baring all, and giving new meaning to the phrase "tea-bagging."

James visited famous New Orleans painter/photographer **George Dureau**. Although his paintings fetch \$10,000 and up, he gained fame in the '70s for his photographs of rough, tough, hard-looking midgets, amputees,



New Orleans wildlife at the Mississippi River Bottom club

JJ hung out mostly on dicey Rampart Street, where he met and photographed a number of hot guys. Just two doors away from scandalous, mostly-black gay bar Wolfendale's is sleazy white-trash joint T.T.'s, famous for its strip shows and drunken brawls. There's a familiar face behind the bar, SF's own Darlin, aka **Miss South Vanessa** aka Miss Black-Out, fresh from a year stint in Berlin. We hear she is now to attend film school in LA, poor thing.

Nearby, on Bourbon Street, is a she-male cabaret — "seeing is believing!" Next door, a strip joint advertises "topless women, bottomless men!" Both places have shills hawking "no cover charge," but there is a two-drink minimum. Don't ever go to a place like that and hand the waitress a \$20 or a \$50 without first asking how much. There won't be no change.

and hustlers. The Contemporary Arts Center of NO is presenting a Dureau retrospective for their big millennium show.

La Dureau greeted James at the door with a large sniffer of bourbon in his hand. Upstairs, in his spacious studio filled with paintings, chandeliers, candelabras, Greek statues and columns, are hundreds of photographs of all sizes strewn about on tables, chairs, the floor. The two irrepressible photogs swapped juicy stories about models, hustlers, **Robert Mapplethorpe**, and murderous, greasy New Orleans. "We even swapped a few prints, which I thought was extremely generous of him."

Using centaurs, muses, and other classic mythical figures in his paintings, Dureau first began photographing his subjects "because the papers didn't believe me" that his models were real-live people.

In Melanie's footsteps?

by Gregg Shapiro

Singer/songwriters Rose Polenzani, Kristin Hersh and Danielle Howle were probably very, very young, if they were alive at all, when singer/songwriter Melanie Safka was at the height of her popularity. *Beautiful People: The Greatest Hits of Melanie (Buddha)* compiles Melanie's biggest chart successes (along with some other tracks), which makes for a good point of reference. In many ways, you can hear Melanie's influence on all three of these women. Aside from being influential, Melanie also had a way with a song in her own right. Witness "Lay Down Candles In The Rain" (on CD for the first time ever in its 7-minute, 39-second version), "Ring The Living Bell," "Brand New Key," "The Nickel Song" and "What Have They Done To My Song, Ma?" This package also includes two new songs (!), both of which are quite pleasant.

Rose Polenzani's *Anybody* (Daemon) is also a compilation of sorts. The dozen stunning acoustic tracks (including the hidden track) are from a variety of sources including *Dragersville* (her 1998 indie album) and some of her self-released tapes. Anyone familiar with Rose will want to know if her unforgettable "Olga's Birthday" is here, and the good news is that it is. You will also find the troubling "Shake Through To Ugly," "Or," and "Omen." If you weren't able to get a hold of



Rose Polenzani

Dragersville, the other piece of good news is that it will probably be easier to find *Anybody*, so do yourself a favor and get a copy or two.

Like Polenzani, Danielle Howle has released albums on Indigo Girl Amy Ray's Daemon Records. However, her latest, *Catalog* is on the Kill Rock Stars label. Another thing that Howle has in common with Polenzani is that *Catalog* is also an exquisite acoustic effort. Whether she's singing about love ("Still In Love

With You," "Ode To The Group Boys") or the death of a relative ("Grandpa"), she infuses her songs with a distinctive energy, and her unique perspective emerges uncompromised (as it does especially on "Tie Up The Moon," "From The Tops Of Trees," "Plug In The Light," "Willow In The Chair," and "Kissing Game").

Throwing Muses fans must be so happy that Kristin Hersh has continued to record as a solo performer after the dissolution of her band. Hersh did, in fact, release solo projects while still working with TM. With her latest post-TM disc *Sky Motel* (4AD), Hersh continues to establish herself as a relevant player in the world of female (and for that matter, male) singers and songwriters. If this album had been released six months earlier, Hersh would have been guaranteed a slot on VH1's 100 Greatest Women in Rock. As it is, *Sky Motel* practically guarantees Hersh a slot on several end-of-the-year "best of" lists. Stand-out tracks include the gorgeous and jarring "White Trash Moon," "Costa Rica," "Caffeine," the raucous "Fog," and "A Cleaner Light." ▼

Victory Deferred

◀ page 55

with people with AIDS, activists, caregivers, doctors, fundraisers, lawyers, scientists, and volunteers make compelling reading.

Towards the end of the book, he quotes the late film historian Vito Russo: "Remember that some day the AIDS crisis will be over. And when that day has come and gone there will be people alive on this earth: gay people and straight people, black people and white people, men and women — who will hear the story that once there was a terrible disease, and that a brave group of people stood up and fought and in some cases died so

that others might live and be free."

While there have been many books exploring particular aspects of AIDS, Andriote's *Victory Deferred* is one of the most comprehensive. His adroit integration of the personal and the historical results in an illustrative and analytical telling of the disease's impact on the gay civil rights movement. His depiction of the poignant struggles, heroic responses, and resultant social and political gains emanating from AIDS is a perceptive document for our time. ▼

John R. Killackey is executive director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

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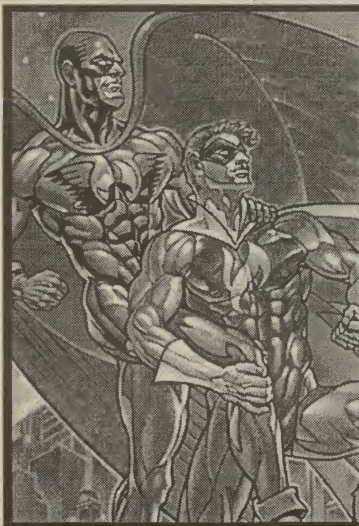
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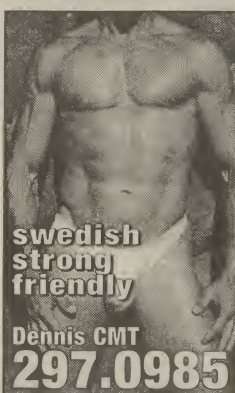
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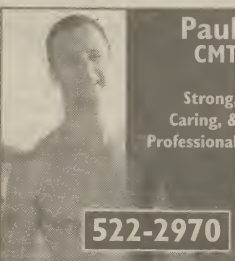
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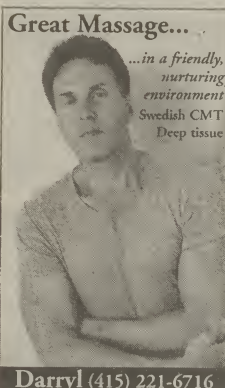
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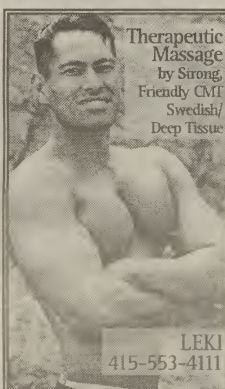


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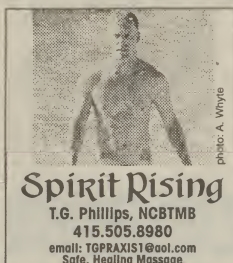
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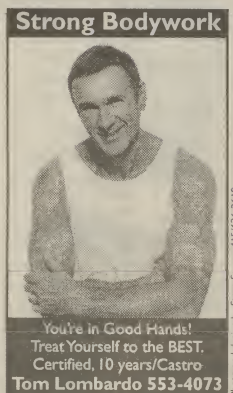
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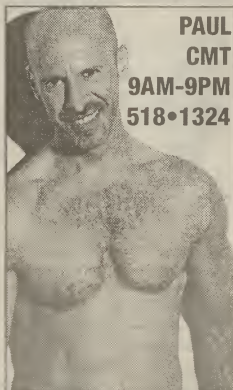
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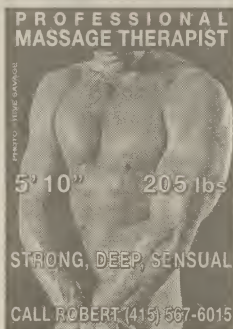


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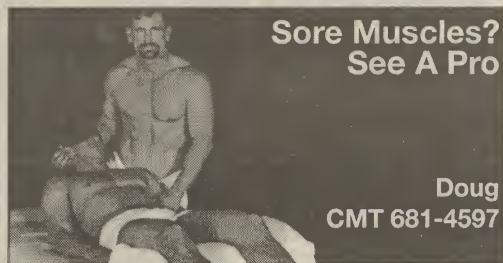
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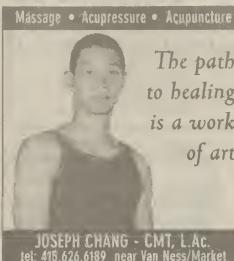
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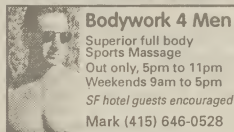
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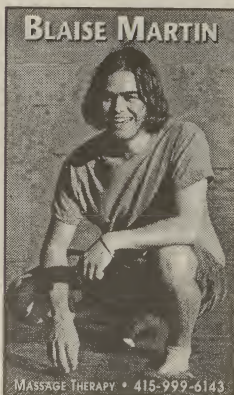
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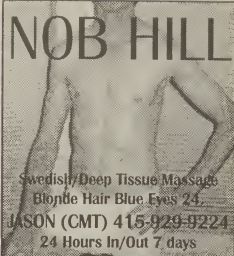
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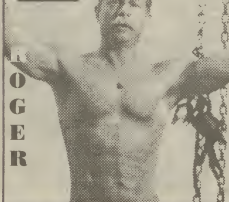
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9 fat, uncut inches
here from France for
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21yo, 5'9", 150#, 28"w, blo/blo

BEAUTIFUL BOY!

A smooth, lean, athletic body,
handsome face & friendly smile. Fun,
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BORN TO SERVE MEN

HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM
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22yr new in town

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6'3", 165# 8"uncut, out only
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FALCON SUPERSTAR

5'10" br/br, 190lbs, solid muscle,
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10x6. Very masculine, discreet.
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22, 5'11", 160, blonde/blue, tan,
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Serving gentlemen w/class. Call
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Muscular 32yr Stud W/a Furry
Stomach, Full Bush, Hard 8x6 Cut
& Chin Slappin' Low Hangers 6ft
190lbs of Solid Muscle 207-9045

9"rod, small firm butt 140lbs, 6'1",
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TAN-AWESOME/MUSCLE- 4-YOU
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Dominant Leatherman

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CBT, Brown Hair,
F/F, flat top,
Fetish, Blue Eyes,
Slave mustache,
Training, 7" Uncut.



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Have equipment and playspace.

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http://www.dna.com/~factory/scott/index.html

20 YEARS OLD



Blond 5'10", 150 lbs

Out Only

790-5076 pgr

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HORSE HUNG FARMBOY



6'3 Butch Top In/Out

STEVE (415) 313-4041



Luke Steele

6' 210"

pgr: 201.6533

lukesteale.com

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Lou Cass



415-414-CASS



TOP ONLY

6' 270"

28 yo

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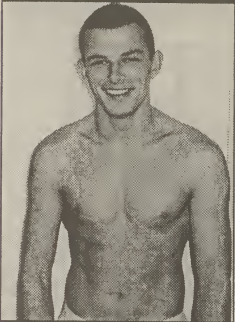
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**SUPER THICK
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Goodlooking satisfying.
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(voice mail)



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Voicemail# 289-6843

28" w 135# 6'1" 25yo

CHARMING & HANDSOME

Slender & smooth

open-minded & friendly

curious? 415-393-9020 out only

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Smooth lean top

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25, 5'11", 165#, blond hair, tan.

120/hr. Pager/voice: 408-882-8669.

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43 6'1" 190 masc, musld hot

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2 hung oral-tops for 1on 1or 2 on 1

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27 & 32yo Clint* 414-1030* Anytime!

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SHY & UNCUT FOR SEXY

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Naughty 2 nice

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masculine, versatile, discreet, and

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SmoothHard vers bod

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FEATURING CURIOUS SEXY

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30YR 5'8" 157LBS LEAN TONE

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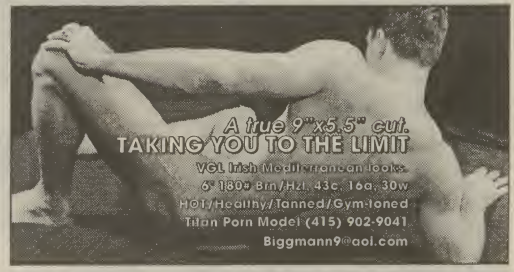
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TAKING YOU TO THE LIMIT

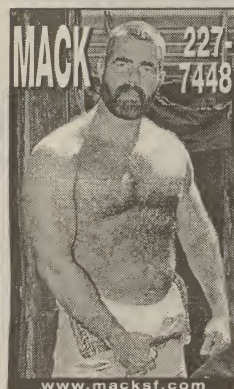
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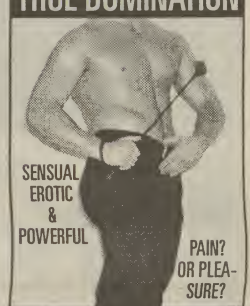
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body Ericks page #415 313 8948

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In/out Frank 510-506-5655

Late night ok

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White male seeks your paid

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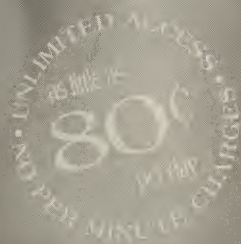
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WM well bilt, 8" needs blt men (20-

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